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Millers Creek

United Methodist Church



November, 1954

MILLERS CREEK
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1984

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Introduction and Acknowledgements

As we celebrate the anniversary of two hundred years of Methodism, we give thanks to God for His love and guidance, for our local church and for the rich heritage we enjoy today. We pay tribute to those who have gone on before; those whose faith, courage, wisdom and labors founded and nurtured our church through the years.

The origin of Millers Creek United Methodist Church dates back over 100 years and despite gaps, we are very fortunate that some of the early history was preserved. Many records were lost in a fire which destroyed the M. F. Bungarner home in 1956. Still more records were lost when a fire occurred in an upstairs storage room in the present church in the early 1970's.

The data included herein has been gleaned from local and conference records, personal collections of weekly Bulletins and newsletters, and interviews with numerous members. After extensive research, we, the Committee on History, has made an honest and sincere effort to accurately record our findings. We realize that a work of this magnitude is subject to errors and/or omissions. In order to make corrections in our files in The Methodist Archives, we would appreciate it if such errors were reported to the Committee named below.

We appreciate the cooperation of each member who furnished information, wrote an article, or assisted in any way with the publication of this history. Our special thanks to Mrs. Alan Tolbert who assisted with typing; Edward and Phillip Benton for helping with the copying of these pages; and to Mr. C. C. Brooks, Jr. and Mr. Walter Broyhill for collating and binding the finished product.

It is our hope that this compilation will not only preserve the history to date, but will inspire our church to continue its witness and service in the community and its efforts toward the fulfillment of His Kingdom.

Mae R. Hayes
Gayle C. Benton
Sidney B. Johnston
Virginia C. Owens

The Pastor's Page

The history of Millers Creek United Methodist Church is new to me, having been here only ten months now. For me however, this history is the record of a faithful people pursuing a two-fold dream. One, to provide for all times and all people a place to worship God and express their faith. Two, to make their community a better place for their families. Over the years this little country church has grown into a community church that is a landmark of faith for the people that live around it. Through the years many have been the problems faced and solved, heavy the responsibilities assumed. These experiences have only served to hasten the growth toward a Christian maturity on a deeper level. The signs of this experience always are the commitment, vision and responsible shown through the church membership.

The dreams of that earlier generation have been realized time and again over the years. Now the dream is being fulfilled in a new way that we must prepare for and that is new growth in membership. Our church is growing and will grow more if we prepare ourselves to again be witnesses for Christ and show his love for others.

This is a special place where persons of faith can gather to renew their faith and to serve Christ through the needs of others. Here we can grow both upward to God and outward to each other; where we share our common needs and goals; our hurts and doubts; where love and hope blossom within us.

Remembering the words of Edgar Guest who wrote:

"God builds no churches! By His plan
That labor has been left to man.
No spires miraculously rise,
No little mission from the skies,
Falls on a bleak and barren place
To be a source of strength and grace.
The humblest church demands its price
In human toil and sacrifice.

The humblest spire in mortal kin,
Where God abides, was built by men.
And if the church is still to grow,
Is still the light of hope to throw

Across the valleys of despair,
Men still must build God's house of prayer.
God sends no churches from the skies,
Out of our hearts must they rise!"

So let us never forget that Jesus has called us not to be spectators, but participants and active players in the work of His Kingdom. The church has never failed in any task which it has undertaken in the name of Christ. With the assurance of His presence with us, let us continue to lift high the cross of Christ in this community. May every member of this church family continue to be willing to carry, even to bear their portion of the load as we seek to be His faithful servants. Knowing the church exists only by the sacrifice of Christ and the ongoing sacrifice of His followers.

Here in these pages we have a part of the record of the lives that have been given for His church and service. May God bless you who continue to serve Him.

In Christ,

Ron Allen, Minister

A Brief Outline of Methodism

It may be said that Methodism had its beginning on 24 May 1738 when John Wesley, a clergyman of the Church of England, attended a prayer meeting in Aldersgate Street in London. Although it was not his plan to found a new church, he began to share his newly discovered religious convictions throughout the British Isles. Methodism became a great movement which spread to Ireland and later to America. At a conference held in Baltimore, Maryland 24 December, 1784, The Methodist Episcopal Church in America was organized.

In 1828 a group of the church desiring more lay representation, separated and became known as The Methodist Protestant Church.

The next deviation came in May 1845 when The Methodist Episcopal Church South was created. No doubt the question of slavery played a large part in this split, but there were some who blamed it on the powers of the General Conference versus episcopacy.

On 10 May 1939, the members of The Uniting Conference declared that the three above named churches "are and shall be one united church;" thus The Methodist Church was established.

The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren (formed in 1946 by union of The Evangelical Church and The United Brethren in Christ - both these groups were formed in 1800 and both followed the doctrines of Methodism) consolidated in April 1968 at Dallas, Texas and the name was changed to The United Methodist Church.

This, of course, is a very brief historical sketch. For further information concerning the evolution of our church, its beliefs, purposes, structure, etc., please see the "Discipline of The United Methodist Church." Another recommended source is "The Methodist Primer" by Charles Claude Selecman.

Early Methodism in Wilkes County and Millers Creek

Data recorded in a journal by Francis Asbury, Bishop of The Methodist Episcopal Church, reveals that he was in Wilkes County as early at 1785. He mentioned riding to Hindorn's (Hendren ?) in Wilkes where they were "kindly entertained, although there were few people to preach to."

Asbury wrote about a quarterly meeting at Gordon's, Mulberry Fields on the Yadkin River in 1786 where he was met by Brothers Ivey, Bingham, and Williamson. He preached at Morgan Bryan's on Sunday, 19 February 1786.

Seven years later, he stated that he returned to Gordon's on the Yadkin. He wrote "Dead! Dead! The world - the devil - antinomianism in doctrine and practice."

Asbury was again at Gordon's in April 1795 and the following comments were recorded in his journal: "I fear lest darkness should be felt here. Ah, Lord, help me to go through and evil report; prosperity and adversity, storms and calms, kindness and unkindness, friends and enemies, life and death, in the spirit and practice of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!"

Asbury's final trip to Wilkes recorded as 19 October 1799 was to "George Gordon's near Wilkes courthouse."

These excerpts were taken by M. F. Bumgarner from an abridged copy of Asbury's Journal. Mr. Bumgarner stated that he did not have access to Asbury's complete journal and there could be some omissions.

Following Asbury's visits, there is a gap of approximately thirty-five years in which we have been unable to locate any records pertaining to The Methodist Church in Wilkes County. In reference to our particular area, we do know that Charity United Methodist Church, often referred to as the "mother" of both Friendship and Millers Creek churches, was formed prior to 1835. The first Charity Church, a log structure, was located near the Crossroads community, north of Millers Creek. It was later moved to its present site about 1/2

mile west of the original location.

There is a record of a church conference which was held at "Charity Camp Ground" in 1835 (see "Land of Wilkes" by Judge Johnson J. Hayes). The churches represented were New Bethel, Shilo, Temple Hill, Wilkesboro, Sharon, Mt. Bethel, Mt. Pisgah, Charity, Ebenezer, Ailsberry or Aylsberry, Union, Bethlehem and Eglantine. The Presiding Elder for this conference was Abram Penn; the Pastor in Charge and Assistants: Stephen Bingham and Jno. Newell; Steward: B. F. Petty; Class Leaders: James C. Reynolds and Thomas Rash; Exhorters: John W (arren) Rash and Wm. M. Hamby.

Original papers of the Wilkes Circuit of The Methodist Episcopal Churches record a conference at New Bethel Church on 7 November 1840. John Kilby, chairman for Charity Church trustees, reported that church "in good repair with a debt of \$400 hanging over it. Other trustees for Charity at that time were Joseph E. Kilby, John Kilby, Thomas Rash, Humphrey Kilby, and Steven Bingham. (Judge Hayes includes Griffin Summerlin and Wm. Wheatley as trustees for Charity, but it is believed that they were members of other Churches).

When the division in the church occurred in 1845, Charity church chose to be affiliated with The Methodist Episcopal Church South, as did old Millers Creek when it was created in 1890. Friendship, Arbor Grove, Oak Grove and Union were among local churches who remained with The Methodist Episcopal Church and were referred to as north or northern. This distinction prevailed until 1939 when the churches were united and became The Methodist Church.

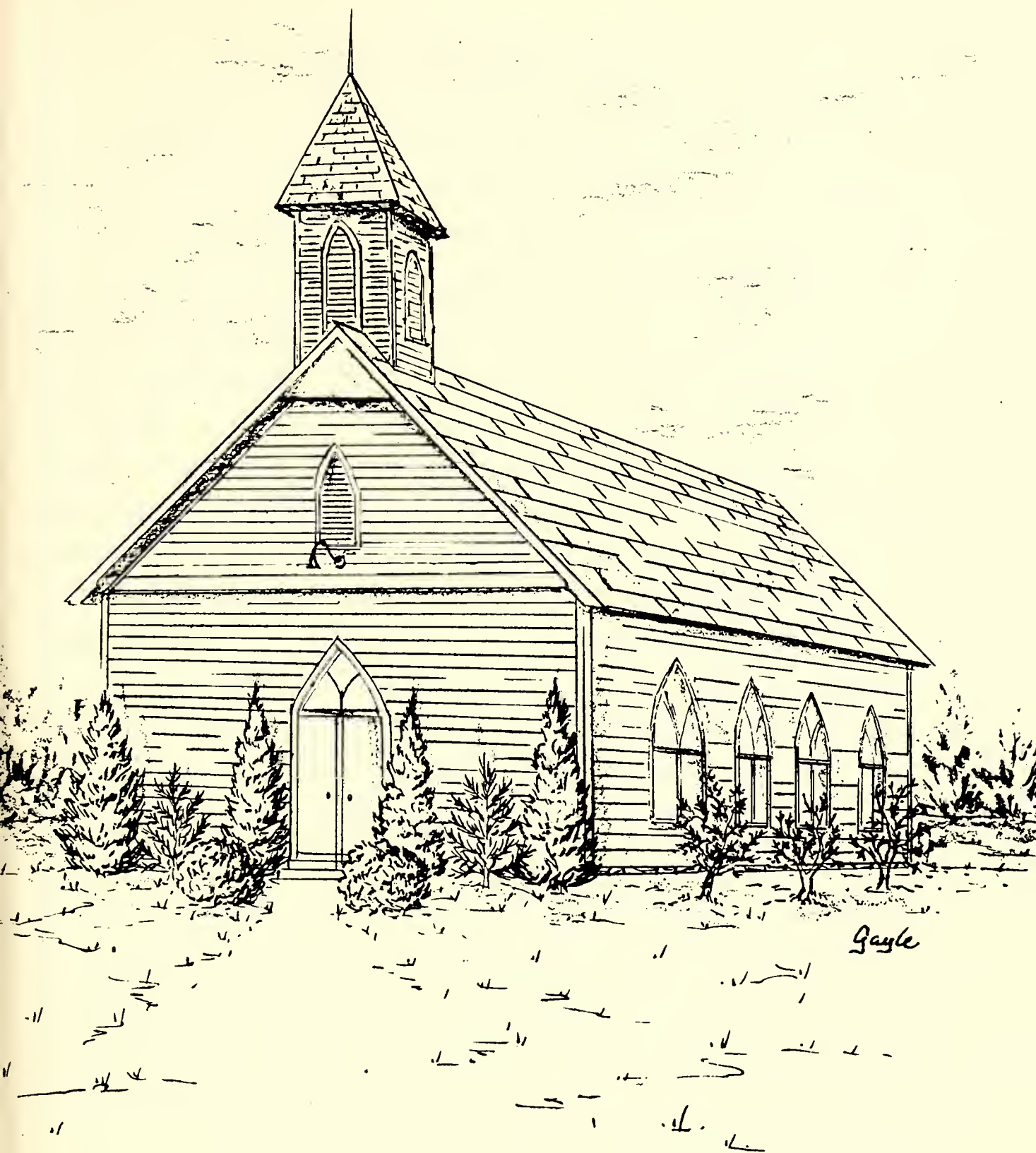
A record entitled "General Class Book for Wilkes Circuit, 1854-55" listed 95 white and 8 colored members at Charity. However, it is not known if this refers to church or to Sunday School members.

Minutes of a conference held in May 1855 include a Resolution on the death of Thomas Rash, Supt. of the Sunday School at Charity. Jno. Rash, Pastor in Charge and John Wright, class leader.

Rev. C. Plyler was the preacher in charge of the Wilkes Circuit before and following the Civil War. He listed the names of the Circuit as follows:

Stewards: R. F. Hackett, B. F. Petty, A. L. Rousseau, Jno. Rousseau, L. Parks, R. L. Hix, Jno Forister, W. S. McNeill, J. F. Tugman, and Wm. Mastin: Sunday School Supt.: A. S. Crowson; Class Leaders: W. Emerson, Jeremiah Crysel, Jos. Rash, Jas. L Faw, Henry Evans, I. B. Bullis, Alx. McNeill, Jas. Taylor, Jas. Mitchell, W. E. Bumgarner, J. W. Nichols, John Pierce, Stephen Hoffman, Anthony Lipford, W. Fox, Geo. Earp, W. H. Hubbard, Joel Gilreath, I. P. Gilreath, Reece (?), Jonathan Canter, Jas. Call, Wm. E. Mastin, and Thomas Triplett;

Licensed Preacher: J. W. Rash; Exhorters: I. B. Bullis, Geo. Earp, and W. H. Hubbard.



Friendship Methodist Church

History of Friendship Church

(A composite of histories written sometime ago by C. S. Bumgarner, M. F. Bumgarner, M. M. Bumgarner and Mrs. Edna Staley)

After the Civil War had closed and the head men of the Church had formed a separation, the various classes throughout the country began to make moves for the purpose of worshipping in different meeting places. In some instances the Southern Branch pulled off from the original Church and in perhaps a few instances the Methodist Episcopal class had to move out and arrange for themselves.

At old Charity meeting house where the people had worshipped for many years in peace, a feeling of dissent came among them as was the case of others. Each faction wanted to have the place of worship and wanted to rule the church. The feeling of ill will continued to grow until plans of withdrawal were completed.

Old Charity belonged to the North Carolina and Virginia Conference. The circuit was called Wilkes, though many churches belonging to it were not in that territory.

In the year 1868 when Solomon Hoyle was pastor and John B. Mitchell was the presiding elder, a number left the church and were organized into a class by John N. Barker, at the home of John W. Nichols. The charter members were John W. and Frances Nichols, Joseph S. and Lydia Rash, Stephen A. and Rebecca Bumgarner, Dicy Rogers, Cornelia Rogers, William K. and Margaret M. Rash, J. B. and N. R. Rash, Absolom and Sally Bumgarner, Nancy Faw, Sarah Faw, Fanny Rash and Belva Bumgarner.

After the Methodist class of 1868, known as Friendship, was organized it worshipped in an old house which stood in the pine thicket below Roby Bullis' on land that belonged to Alexander G. Gaither. This house was moved to the "sawmill road" and occupied by Columbus Miller and family for many years. Before the class worshipped long at this site, it was decided to build a house of worship

at the place known as Friendship Church and Cemetery. The members went to the woods, felled the trees, hewed them into shape and hauled them to the building site. Here by the process known as a "raising" these logs took the form of a house of worship. This building may have been called primitive, but its walls were strong, symbolizing the power with which our noble forefathers resisted the approaches of those who desired to crush them. With open door to the south, the old church stood a monument to H. J. Byrd (pastor) until torn down in 1893, having stood almost a quarter of a century. The old long building was first moved across the road to what was then the Jim and Alice Caudill place to be used as a barn, but it was never covered. It was later moved across the road again and was covered and occupied as a dwelling by Eli Bumgarner who had a blacksmith shop nearby.

In 1893 while C. W. Smith was Presiding Elder and J. M. Heath was pastor, a new church was built. The contractor was J. Thomas Broyhill. The new building was rather large and imposing, but unsatisfactory in some ways. It had a raised floor with a high pulpit to match - a tall preacher standing in the pulpit had to look down on his congregation while they were straining their necks to see him. It burned on 3 April 1909, caught by a forest fire that swept upon it by a strong wind from the west. At that time Dock McNeil lived on the Newt Hayes place down on the branch. He had been clearing land and burning brush as was common in those days, and accidentally let the fire out into the woods. It was a dry time and the wind was blowing toward the church. There was no way to stop the fire until it reached the church grounds. It blew into the dry shingles of the church roof so that the fire fighters could do nothing to save the building.

The men of the church gathered round the ashes, discussed their plight, and pledged enough money to secure a new church building. Roby Bullis was given the contract to build and the work proceeded. It was rebuilt in 1919 while R. L. Maness was pastor.

We cannot eulogize those noble veterans too strongly who have lived before us. They planned, they performed, they prayed, they fought, they accomplished. Out of the chaos of the ante-bellum and reconstruction days have been molded a noble class, directed by faithful pastors and wise superintendents - a church that is an honor to her faithful members and a fitting monument to those who have laid her foundation stones. This is a sacred, dedicated spot where moral and religious battles have been fought and Christian victories won.

The following is an example of the admonitions of our forefathers for the preserving of Zion, as they termed the church: "Dear Brothers and Sisters, please observe the Friday before each quarterly meeting as a day of fasting and prayer for the prosperity of Zion, and of us as your ministers." This was signed by John S. Mitchell, Presiding Elder and Soloman Hoyle, Pastor in Charge.

This church was founded upon prayer and must continue to win victories through the same medium. Man can lift more upon his knees than upon his feet.

Presiding Elders who have served this church: W. G. Matton 1877, T.B.H. James, W. W. Rollins, J. M. Welborn 1880-1886, R. M. Witt 1886-1889, C. W. Smith 1889-1895, A. Graybeal 1895-1896, A. J. Johnson 1896-1899 (also 1901), Edwin Anderson first quarter and E J. Winkler fourth quarter 1900, C. W. Smith 1902-1904, W. A. Patton 1904-1909, J. L. Stephenson 1909-1914, W. Q. A. Graham 1914-1915, J. L. Dennis 1915-1916, W. J. Flint 1916-1918, J. L. A. Bumgarner 1919-1920; D. W. Haga 1920-1922, J. M. Wall 1922-1925, A. B. Dennis 1925-1930, C. M. White 1930-1936, C. C. Benton 1937-1938, W. J. Flint 1938-1939, J. S. Hiatt 1939-1940, A. C. Gibbs 1941-1942, J. S. Hiatt 1942-1945, J. H. Armbrust 1945-1951 and Ralph Taylor 1951-1954.

Pastors who have served or have been appointed to this circuit: Soloman Hoyle 1868, H. J. Byrd 1869, Levi Grimes, Tam Matton Jonas Cole 1880-1882, J. N. Barker 1883-1884, R. G. Green, C. W. Smith 1885, T. F. Sechrist 1886, W. C. Bellamy 1887, J. J. Rhyne 1888-1889, W. J. Wyatt and A. J. Johnson 1891, J. M. Heath 1892-1893, J. L. Stephenson 1894 (year of District

Conference at Friendship), D. S. Richardson 1895-1896, E. J. Winkler 1897-1898, J. J. Rhyne 1899-1901, Jesse V. Moore 1902, C. M. Warden 1903, John H. Patterson 1904-1905, T. H. Cole 1905, D. J. White 1906-1909, R. L. Maness 1909-1910 (time of great Troy Maness revival, Bakersville District Conference July 13-17, 1910), K. L. Haga and Tilden Eller 1911-1912, M. F. Bumgarner 1913, J. M. Wall 1913-1914, Welborn Castle 1914, F. A. L. Clark 1915, U. A. Dry 1916-1918, S. N. Bumgarner 1918-1922, E. O. Shaver 1922-1924, K. N. Snipes 1925, J. L. A. Bumgarner 1926-1928, D. J. White 1928-1931, S. N. Bumgarner 1932, E. P. Green 1933-1934, E. O. Spencer 1935-1936, D. L. Earnhardt 1937, J. M. Wall 1938-1939, J. L. A. Bumgarner, J. L. Short, J. R. Bowman 1940-1948, Daniel D. Sain 1950, and C. Jack Caudill 1951-1955.

Preachers who have been trained in this church and have gone out to serve as pastors in other places: Thomas H. Cole, J. L. A. Bumgarner, S. N. Bumgarner, Quincy A. Bumgarner, George W. (Bill) Bumgarner and Albert Wellons.

Friendship Church, 1919 - 1952

Other than a list of pastors and Sunday School superintendents there are no statistical records, such as specific names, dates, etc., concerning Friendship church during this period. All such records were destroyed in a fire that razed the M. F. Bumgarner home where they were kept. The historical committee has had to rely on memory, theirs, and that of elder members of the church.

The frame building which was completed in 1919 was the same construction that was torn down in 1953 to make way for the present Millers Creek United Methodist church.

In the late 30' or early 40' an addition of three Sunday school rooms was made. An opening was arranged on the left hand side of the church (back of the amen corner), so that with the removal of a large sheet of plywood seating capacity could be added to the main body of the church. Some of the men involved in this project were M. F. Bumgarner, Gaither Bumgarner, Ernest and Fred Gaither, M. M. and Newton Bumgarner, and Roby Brooks. There were, most likely, others.

About this time the front of the church was renovated, with a raised seating space for the choir at the right and very pretty railing around the pulpit and choir loft.

Friendship was an active, moving church even though the pastor was shared with Union, Arbor Grove, Millers Creek, Charity, and Oak Grove. There was always a very good Sunday school, well attended.

Those were the days when there were no worries about fresh flowers on the altar during the summer months. Maude Bumgarner, Vira Rash, Pansy Bumgarner, Bessie Rash and Roxie Brooks had a running contest as to whose flowers would get place number one at the altar.

The first Homecoming Service at Friendship was held the 4th Sunday in September, 1934. This has always been Homecoming Day, both at Friendship and Millers Creek United Methodist church - except for two or three years around

1950 it was the 4th Sunday in May.

This history would not be complete without something being said about the many prayers that were prayed in Friendship church.

Until only a few years back it was customary for the pastor to ask some lay person in the congregation to lead in the opening prayer, as well as dismiss the service. To be called on to pray in public was considered an honor, and was expected only by those who were devout, God fearing Christians. If a person's character was being questioned the strongest thing that could be said in his favor was, "he prays in public."

It would be impossible to mention all of those who were called on at one time or another, but two people stand out in the memory of the writer as being called on often, M. F. Bumgarner and M. M. Bumgarner and they, along with many others, were well qualified.

One bright Sunday morning in spring of the late 40's Gurney Walsh walked down the aisle and placed a \$20.00 bill on the table, "I want this to be the beginning of a new church building," - and it was.

The last official activity preformed in this structure was the wedding of Sidney and Lonnie Johnston, March 13, 1953.

Mrs. Mary McKee Wright

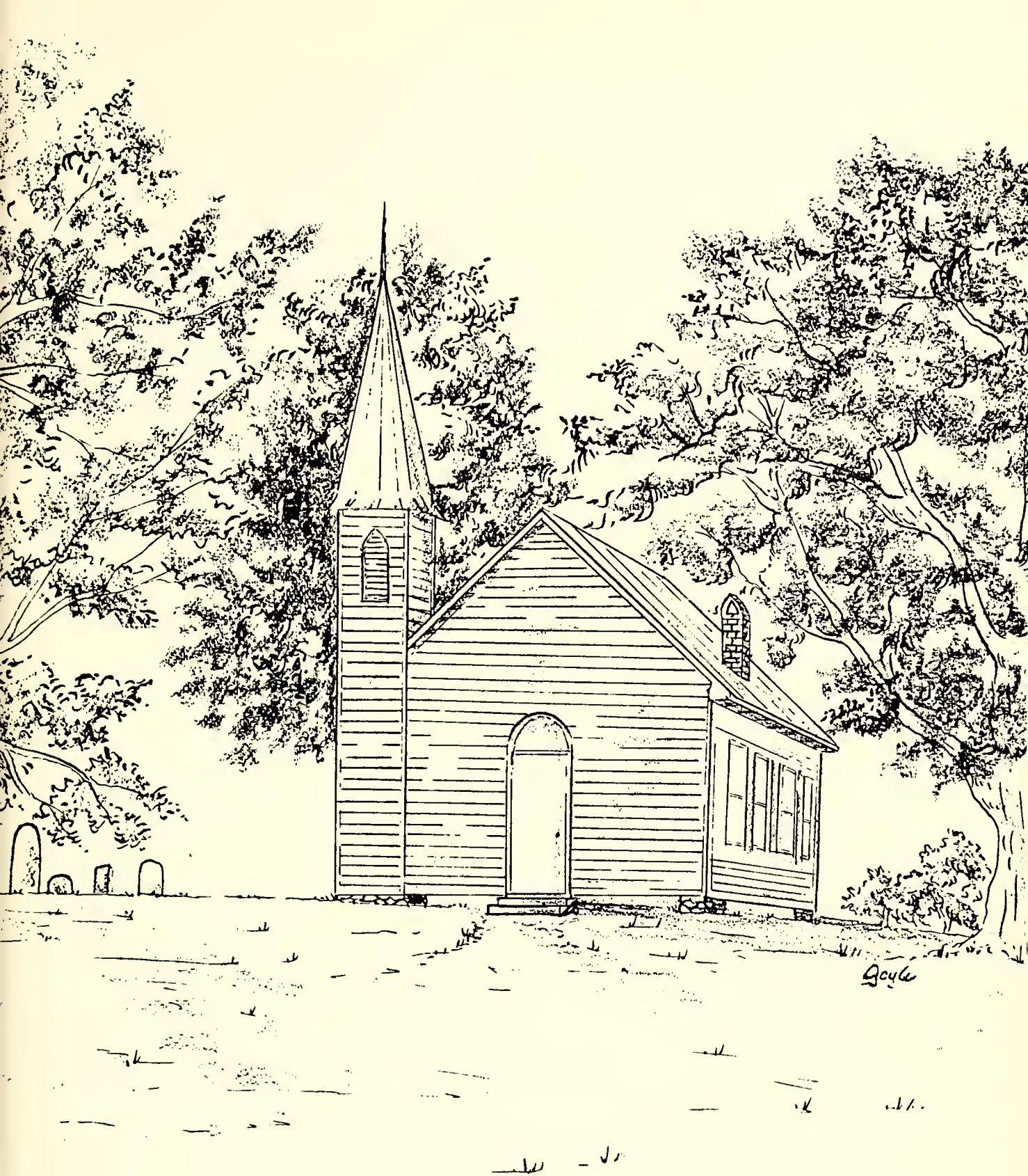
John McKee was born in Ireland in 1766 and fought with Wellington in the Battle of Waterloo in Belgium in 1815. His daughter, Mary was born 23 Sept. 1803. She was married to John Wright in the Cathedral of Armaugh in North Ireland on 10 Aug. 1831. They lived in the parish of Doughall, County of Armaugh. Three children were born to this union in Ireland: Ann Wright Gaither 30 May 1832; Mary Jane 20 Nov. 1834; and Joseph Wright 13 May 1836. Another daughter, Fanny Wright Owings, was born after the family left Ireland.

The Wright family with John McKee, left Peny Coose, Ireland 10 May 1839 and landed in Philadelphia on 6 July 1839. They traveled to Wilmington, N. C., thence through Fayetteville and on to Wilkesboro in Wilkes County, reaching Wilkesboro the last of August or first of September, 1839. They settled on a 640 acre farm at Millers Creek, lying on both sides of the state road running from Wilkesboro to Jefferson in Ashe County.

On 30 August 1882, Mary McKee Wright deeded to the trustees of Friendship church a parcel of land containing five acres more or less. The trustees at that time were Joseph Wright, John W. Nichols, Stephen Bumgarner, A. G. Gaither, A. B. Bumgarner, Enoch Cooper, W. R. Rash, J. L. Bumgarner, and Mary Wright. The deed which was witnessed by James M. Nichols and John W. Nichols was recorded in Wilkes County Deed Book 1, pages 408 and 409 January 1884 and registered on 4 January 1884.

We are deeply indebted to Mrs. Wright for her farsighted donation of this land where our church now stands and for her devotion to the cause of Christ's Kingdom here on earth.

A picture of Mrs. Mary McKee Wright hangs on the wall in the educational building.



Miller's Creek Methodist Church

The First Millers Creek Methodist Church

This church was organized 9 January 1890. The building was constructed shortly after the one acre lot was bought from Louis Absher for \$25.00. The carpenters were George Smith, Finley (Sidney) Smith, and Peter H. Pardue.

The sills on each side are 37 feet long and were hewn from yellow pine. The pews are also made of yellow pine and are now being used at the new church.

Some of the charter members were: Thomas H. Faw, Mary E. Faw, W. A. Nichols, Julia Nichols, James Faw, Sarah Ann Faw, Daniel Bumgarner, Elizabeth Bumgarner, Lillie Rash, John Rash, Mary E. Rash, T. Ben Rash, Mary Rash, Hattie Faw Gaither, John Andrew Faw, Fannie Faw, Caroline McNeill, Adam Crowson, Mrs. Adam Crowson, George Faw, Carrie Faw, Callie Caudill, John Caudill, Rev. John W. Rash, Velisha Rash, Reuben Nichols and Meranda Nichols.

Some of the pastors between 1890 and 1939 were: W. L. Dawson, J. W. Vestal, Rev. H. C. Sprinkle, Sr., J. B. Tabor, W. F. Wellons, and J. G. Gentry. Between 1939-1952: J. M. Green, J. R. Short, G. W. Bumgarner (?), J. L. A. Bumgarner, J. R. Bowman, Daniel D. Sain, and C. Jack Caudill.

Former members who became ministers were Clarence Faw and C. Jack Caudill.

The trustees in 1952 were C. C. Faw, Sr., John Caudill, and C. S. Bumgarner. Church School superintendents include Thomas H. Faw, C. S. Bumgarner, Hattie Gaither, Van Caudill and C. C. Faw.

Thomas H. Faw was the leading layman for many years. He worked for the church with great enthusiasm and earnestness. H. C. Sprinkle and W. L. Dawson stand out as leading country preachers of their day.

World War II Veterans from this church: C. S. Bumgarner, Jr., Tom J. Bumgarner, C. Jack Caudill, John Caudill, Jim Caudill, Lawson Eller, H. D. Caudill, Jr., Robert Hayes, Arlie Hayes, Jimmie Davis, John Walter Gaither and Olin Elledge.

Charles S. Bumgarner, 1960

"The Church Register of The Millers Creek Methodist Episcopal Church, South" and two Church School record books which were found recently, are the only existing data from that church. The register was kept by John F. Caudill, a charter member of old Millers Creek church for the years 1896-1947 - the information contained therein is included in the Appendices of this history.

The two Sunday School records mentioned above were kept by Rell Caudill who for many years was secretary-treasurer. The books contained attendance records, cash received and disbursed, etc. for the years 1946-1952. Attendance during this period averaged 40 per Sunday. The following items noted in these ledgers reveal something of the activities of the church: Paid out for flowers \$2.00; picnic supplies \$3.50, literature \$13.60, three light bulbs \$2.40, to building fund \$200, shrubbery \$22.68, Christmas treats and charity packages \$25.00, new oil stove \$85, oil \$1.60; blower for stove \$12.00, special collection for children's building at Lake Junaluska \$8.50, oil and oil can \$3.35, car bill for pastor \$12.49, parsonage repairs \$11.00, Christian Advocate \$30, mission special \$17, Old folks home, Charlotte \$30.50, Golden Cross \$10.64, etc. Fifth Sunday offerings were always sent to a Methodist Orphanage - this practice continued in the new church for several years.

A few of the notations included in the margins of the books are as follows: "Glad to have Mr. Eller back at Sunday School, glad to have Grover McGlamery today, glad to have Jimmy Tolbert back with us today, three of our young people, Linda Jean Hayes, Max Tolbert and Ray Tulbert joined this church today (4-27-47), glad to have Jimmie Caudill of the U.S. Navy and Jimmy Davis of the U.S. Air Force with us today."

"Preaching " Sundays, quarterly conferences and revivals were special events which were usually well-attended.

Approved Methodist literature was provided and classes for all ages met every Sunday in the one room building. Although the membership was small, they were a happy, compatible group who share many good memories such as picnics at Smoot Park and Bluff (now Doughton) Park. On Homecoming Day, the congregation enjoyed a bountiful meal and stayed most of the afternoon sitting under the trees enjoying good fellowship and conversation, and playing games. Rell Caudill and Nat Tolbert made delicious lemonade in a new, galvanized tub for these occasions. And, of course, a dipper was available to fill the cups. These two men continued to make the lemonade for many years after the merger of the churches.

Gayle Benton's excellent drawing of this church was made from a color photograph taken by a reporter from "The Winston-Salem Journal" in the autumn of 1960. This picture is a cherished memento of the members of this church.

Oak Grove Methodist (Baptist) Church

Just before the turn of the century there arose the need of a place of worship in a section of the community known as Oak Grove. For some families the distance to Friendship was too great, especially for small children. The project got under way and on Oct. 10, 1898, Sara Bullis, A. B. Bullis and wife, M. E. Bullis, deeded to W. A. Bumgarner, T. R. Bullis and T. H. Cole, Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the U. S. of America, a parcel of land consisting of approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ acrs, for the purchase price of \$5.00.

The men of the community got together and built a one room frame, structure that served for many years. Great revivals were held and many souls were saved in this little building.

David Gaither, (known as Uncle Dave Gaither) built the pews from rough lumber, while his young daughter, Ila Gaither (Hurley) sawed the planks. Mrs. Hurley is still living. She resides in a rest home in Durham, North Carolina.

In notes about the pastors it is mentioned that one preacher went to Oak Grove to preach before they had any heat, but he preached anyway, to a shivering congregation.

Oak Grove was a part of the Wilkesboro Charge, and one pastor served as many as six churches. This was too much for one person; so by the late 1940's and early 1950's attendance was down to the extent that the Friendship pastor ceased to hold services.

A group of people of the Baptist faith began using the building as a 'meeting house', and eventually, requested the Methodist Conference to deed the property to the Baptist Association.

There was a great deal of discussion on both sides. Some folk were not too happy about the arrangement, but, it was finally decided that it would be to the best interest of the advancement of God's Kingdom for the Baptist Association to establish a church. A Board of Trustees from the charge was appointed by the District Superintendent. The trustees were; G. C. McGlamery,

Norman Cockman, Tom Eller and Very Johnson.

On April 6, 1959, the above named trustees executed a gift deed to W. C. Smith, Virgil Stanley and Cecil Sheets, Trustees of Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church. This deed^{was} approved by Rev. Robert G. Russell, pastor of Millers Creek Methodist Church, and Rev. Garland Stafford, District Superintendent of the North Wilkesboro District. This deed contains several rather firm stipulations:

(1) The interested parties shall have full access to the graves of those buried in the cemetery.

(2) Interested parties shall have space in their own family plots or in space already designated by them as reserved for later use.

(3) All the cemetery to be kept in a decent order and condition.

(4) The church shall have the service of a minister who is recognized as being a good standing, by the Brushy Mountain Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina; and the Southern Baptist Convention.

(5) Should this property cease to be used by the Missionary Baptist Church, the property shall revert to and become a part of the property of the Methodist Pastoral Charge, of which Millers Creek Methodist Church is a part.

Thus, the history of Oak Grove Methodist/Baptist Church, which is now housed in a very nice, well kept, brick structure just a few yards from the site of the first frame building. It is a strong, growing church, very active in the musical field. A string quartet from Oak Grove were guest singers at the last revival at Millers Creek. We are proud of them and what they have done with the property.

The Rev. C. Jack Caudill

From time to time, there had been some talk of consolidating two or more of the small Methodist churches in the Millers Creek area. The possibility had not progressed beyond the "talking stage" until the Rev. C. Jack Caudill became the pastor of the Millers Creek charge.

Rev. Caudill is a native of Millers Creek, the son of Dewey and Ethel Long Caudill. He became a devout Christian at an early age. Friends and neighbors recall as children "playing church" under the large oak tree in the front yard of the Caudill family home at Millers Creek. Jack was always the preacher and led the services. He first joined and attended Harmony Baptist Church with his parents. He transferred his membership to Millers Creek Methodist Church in 1947.

Jack entered the U. S. Navy in 1942 where he attained the rank of 2nd class signalman. He served in Italy, North Africa, Scotland, England and the Philippines before receiving his discharge in 1945. He returned to Wilkes County and attended Appalachian State Teachers College at Boone for one year. He then enrolled in the University of Tennessee where he graduated with a degree in liberal arts in December, 1949. He entered Duke Divinity School, Durham, N. C. in January 1950 and graduated in June 1954.

While he was a student at Duke Jack was unbelievable busy and the years were very full and eventful. He became pastor of Millers Creek charge in the fall of 1951 and taught school in Wilkes the first year. He continued the dual task of being a minister and a student until his graduation. He traveled the 300+ miles round trip from Durham to Millers Creek each weekend for $1\frac{1}{2}$ years without the benefit of the bypasses around the towns which we have today.

Rev. Caudill created The Circuit Rider, a newsletter of activities on the charge, in September 1951. The name was changed a few years ago to The Circuit Writer and of course, it now serves only one church, but the newsletter continues to be mailed to members and constituents.

In additon to his already full schedule, the gigantic task of guiding two churches through a consolidation program must have seemed overwhelming to a young pastor still in Divinity School! Yet Jack accepted this task with humility and despite many obstacles and hardships, he moved forward with dedication and precision. He foresaw the advantages of a stronger Methodist Church in our community and agreed with the members who were becoming more and more interested in obtaining better facilities, etc., especially for the children and young people.

In a booklet of auto-biographical information about Rev. J. L. A. Bumgarner compiled in 1968 by Rev. and Mrs. George William Bumgarner, is the following statement by Rev. J. L. A. Bumgarner: "Jack is one of my spiritual sons. When he was needed to bring Friendship and Millers Creek into a union, I urged him to take the appointment. No one could have done better."

Jack and Libby Alexander were married 10 April 1954 and moved into the old, rather delapidated parsonage beside the church. They worked hard refinishing floors, painting, etc. and it soon became a cozy, attractive home. They lived there until the fall of 1955 when Jack was transferred to Crews Methodist Church near Winston Salem.

The merger of our churches was a vital step for Methodism in our area and we are deeply grateful to Rev. C. Jack Caudill for his valuable contribution.

Resolutions for the Consolidation of the Millers Creek
and Friendship Methodist Churches of the Millers Creek Charge

1. We propose to combine the two existing churches into one body, combining the official boards of stewards, trustees of property and the four major Committees; and also to combine the two building funds of the two churches.
2. We propose that a new plant be built throughout, using new materials; and that the new church be located on the property belonging to the Friendship church (since their membership is three times that of Millers Creek, and since there are five acres to the tract of property at Friendship, and since it is next door to the parsonage.)
3. We propose that the name of the new church be called the Millers Creek Methodist Church.
4. We propose that the property of Millers Creek church be deeded to the trustees of the new board of trustees of the combined church; and that they be responsible for the upkeep of the cemetery at the Millers Creek church just as well as at the Friendship church.
5. We propose that the present building at Millers Creek be moved near the highway and renovated into a community house; which will be located on property owned by the new church, but made available to the community for such purposes as the meeting place for Boy Scouts, Home Demonstration Club, any civic club; and a recreational center for the youth of the community, and that such be supervised by a special committee chosen by the new combined church. Additional materials for the construction of a kitchen addition or other needed rooms for the community house may be obtained from the Friendship building - the remaining materials may be sold.

6. We propose that the two groups meet together after unification has been approved, and that they meet in the Millers Creek school building, and hold preaching services in the auditorium of the school building, in order that the Friendship building may be torn down and in order for the necessary grading to be done for the new church building.
7. We propose that a new building be started on the Friendship property after proper grading has been done, as soon as possible this fall.
8. We do not feel that it would be for the best interest of the Arbor Grove church to move to Millers Creek, or that they would be interested in doing so. But since Charity church is nearer Millers Creek and since it is small, and located close to another large church (Pleasant Home), we extend to them an invitation to consolidate with these two churches if the majority of their members so desire.
9. Should Charity vote to consolidate, we propose that their building be sold and the money used toward the purchase of a church bus which would run from the combined church twice on Sundays.
10. We feel that it is imperative that Millers Creek and Friendship churches combine in order to get a grant from the Duke Endowment; but more especially for the strengthening of the Methodist church in the heart of the community; for we believe in so doing we would be a stronger force in the work of the Kingdom of God.
11. According to the Discipline of the Methodist Church only those members who are 21 and above can vote on the issue of consolidation. We propose that each member of the Millers Creek church be asked to vote on this matter of consolidation by a committee, which will contact each adult member individually, and that a special meeting be called for the adult members of Friendship church this Sunday morning directly after the devotional at the beginning of the Sunday school. We propose that the voters cast their ballot secretly, or that they mark it on individual forms to be furnished and dropped into a

box placed in the front of the room, where they will be counted by two stewards of the church. The committee shall make their contacts this week, and results of that will be reported at Friendship Sunday morning at 10 A.M., and final results announced at the church service at Millers Creek 11. We propose that Charity cast a vote on Sunday in a similar manner to the members of Friendship.

12. We propose that only those members who are residing in Wilkes County be contacted on this vote, and that any member of Friendship and Charity who wishes to have a vote be present at the voting this Sunday morning at his respective church.
13. After these resolutions have been adopted by the special Conference, they shall be submitted to the local paper (Journal Patriot) for publication in order to make our intentions known by our members and friends of these churches.

Adopted September 8, 1952

Signed by:

Ralph Tayler, Pres.
M. F. Bumgarner, Sec.
C. Jack Caudill, Pastor

The Transition

The next two years (1952-1954) were packed with new learning experiences for all of us who were members of the new church. Although we worked hard and faced many problems and frustrations, they were exciting, happy and rewarding years.

A week after the Resolutions for Consolidation were presented, "The Circuit Rider" (16 Sept. 1952) announced that it "has not had many big news items to report since its creation a year ago, but we feel privileged to report in this issue the heartening news of the unification of Friendship and Millers Creek churches. Individual voting was done by members of Millers Creek last week and Sunday, 14 Sept., the membership at Friendship cast their votes at the church. Seventeen of the twenty-four eligible members of Millers Creek voted for unification..two against..five not voting either way. Of the fifty-two votes cast at Friendship only two were opposed to the proposals. We wish to keep the original copy with all the signatures as a permanent document of the new church.

Charity church rejected the proposals. It is hoped that they will now plan for improvements on the grounds and building. A committee shall soon be selected to study their present needs and later make their recommendations."

On Sunday, Sept. 21, the Committee on Education composed of Mae C. Johnson, Sam Osborne, Cornelia Bumgarner, Mae R. Hayes, J. Van Caudill and Doris Tulbert met at Friendship to make nominations for teachers of the new classes.

Another announcement of interest which appeared in "The Circuit Rider" (16 Sept.) stated that "Very often it appears that our major emphasis are upon the young people of the charge. While we do not deny the importance of working with the youth, we do not want to bypass the needs of the elderly, as well as all adults. Home teachers are going to visit these people at least once a month to help them in their home quarterly and Bible study. The three teachers for the circuit are Mrs. Nat Tolbert, Mrs. M. F. Bumgarner and Mrs. Forest Doss."

A program celebrating the 500 anniversary of the printing of the Gutenberg Bible was held at old Millers Creek church on Tuesday evening, Sept. 30th. Two sets of slides were shown and the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible were on sale. Sam Osborne was in charge of this program.

It should be noted that the Resolutions for Consolidation were carried out as listed with one exception: Item 5 - the old building at Millers Creek was never used and was dismantled several years later.

It must also be stated that the consolidation of these two churches was not accomplished without some hard feelings and bitterness on the part of a few members. To our knowledge, only three families and one individual from both churches failed to return after unification. Feelings of dissent and friction between the two groups surfaced on several occasions during the early years after the merger, but we sincerely believe that today we have a unified congregation.

The combined congregation started meeting in the Millers Creek School building the first Sunday in October, 1952. An installation service for all stewards and officials and teachers of the new church was held on Sunday morning Oct. 12th. We continued to meet at the school until the new plant was completed. During this interval, two regular preaching services were held each month (2nd and 4th Sundays at 11:00 a.m.).

The building at Friendship was removed in 1953. Many of us remember working all day at the site for the final clearing of the grounds, building a huge bonfire and roasting hot dogs for supper. Two members, Mae and Dora Hayes, have a special reason for remembering the day - each stepped on a nail a few hours apart and received tetnus shots of "bad serum" and were very ill for sometime. And, of course, tearing down the building was an emotional and somewhat sad event for the many who had such happy memories and religious experiences there.



Ground-breaking, Millers Creek Methodist Church, ca Sept. 1, 1953. Pictured in foreground: (left to right) Rev. J.L.A. Bumgarner and Rev. C. Jack Caudill. Back row: M.F. Bumgarner Avery Johnson, J.H. Eudaily, Lin Bumgarner, Robert Hayes and Nat Tolbert, members of the building committee; Mrs. Vira Rash of Freindship Church and Mrs. Hattie Gaither of old Millers Creek Church.

The Cornerstone 28 March 1954. Left to right: Rev. C. Jack Caudill and Rev. J.L.A. Bumgarner.



Ground breaking services were held on a Sunday afternoon in early fall, 1953, and the cornerstone was laid 28 March 1954 (see photographs on preceding page). Church documents, a Revised Standard Version of the Bible, a 1952 Discipline of the Methodist Church, devotional literature and current coins were placed behind the granite cornerstone. A brief history of each of the two former churches was prepared by the Rev. J. L. A. Bumgarner. These histories which included a complete roll of the present church along with original rolls of the two former churches were also placed in the cornerstone. The original proposals for unification containing the names of those who signed the original copy and a set of pictures of the ground breaking exercise were also put in the cornerstone.

The building committee for the new church deserves much credit for a job well done. They were A. G. Nichols, Chm., M. F. Bumgarner, Sec.; Nat Tolbert, Robert Hayes, Avery Johnson, Lin Bumgarner and J. H. Eudaily. C. S. Bumgarner was the first chairman of the Official Board. Paul Delp was treasurer and M. F. Bumgarner was assistant treasurer. Stuart Davis of Lewisburg, N. C. was the architect and the building foreman was Auborn Parsons of Millers Creek.

The following letter written on 8 July 1954 by the pastor to all members of the church, details the progress of the building to date:

"At present the workers are finishing the main roof. Let us see some of the jobs that are ahead of us on the building: The steeple is to be finished and covered with copper. Trim work in wood is to be done around the top of the walls on the outside. The front porch is yet to be built. Inside work can be started soon. The ground floor in the educational unit is to be reinforced concrete. The sanctuary is to be plastered and floored along with the second story in the educational unit. Our heating system must be installed soon. We have the blueprints for an air heating system which we received from the architect a few days ago. Our wiring is another job to be done; so is the plumbing along with obtaining some adequate water system.

We already have our windows for the educational unit and have them paid for. Our sanctuary windows are being made and will be ready for installation around the first of September. Nine windows have been sold and the church is reserving the tenth window a a memorial

to "Granny Wright" who gave the property to the Friendship church on which the new church is located.

The treasurer of the building fund reports \$23,034.66 has been spent in cash. Only \$1,000 of that has come from sources outside the church and community...that being the gift from our conference board of missions. We owe about \$3,000 for materials. THERE IS ONLY \$500 LEFT IN THE BUILDING FUND, and this week's payroll will take around \$300.

There appear to be only two main courses ahead of us at present: to lay off our workers or, to raise more money as soon as possible, and to borrow some money. The first course would seem to be a tragic way to attempt to realize the fulfillment of our dreams and aspirations. We feel that it is imperative that we get into our new building as soon as possible. Our board has decided to borrow \$5,000, but this amount will not last long when we start these inside jobs. We will get \$5,000 from Duke (Endowment Fund). This still leaves between five to ten thousand dollars to complete the job.

I wish to commend the membership for faithful giving. Because of sacrifices our goal is now within sight. Let us give thanks for what has already been done. But let us pray for renewed devotion and dedication of ourselves and our means to complete the task. Give that Christ might be glorified...and He will bless you abundantly."

The work did not cease! Soon after the above letter was written several members of the church signed individual notes of \$500 each and borrowed the necessary funds from a local bank. Although the records have been lost, it is believed that the signers were Van Caudill, Paul Delp, Edna Staley, Lawson Eller, Robert Hayes, Nat Tolbert, Jim Bumgarner, Avery Johnson, J. H. Eudaily, Nick Collins and Isaac Royal (perhaps others).

In the meantime, the Committee on Decorations, Furnishings, and Memorials (Agnes Caudill, Chm.; Neta Bumgarner, Clara Eller, Sec.; Mary Lee Bumgarner, Blanche Gaither and Isaac Royal) were hard at work selecting the furnishings for the sanctuary. The chancel furnishings were purchased from the Southern Desk Co., Hickory, N. C. and the windows came from Russell Church Supply Company, Winston-Salem. The windows, depicting the life of Christ, were produced by Franz Mayer of Bolivia and the art glass studios of Russell Church Supply Company. Pews from the two old churches were used for several years before new, cushioned pews were purchased from Southern Desk Company in 1968. The carpet in the sanctuary and the educational building was installed by Gray Bros., Wilkesboro. We have been unable to verify the date of installation - perhaps 1969.

The Past Thirty Years
1954-1984

"NEW CHURCH TO OPEN" - this was the headline in "The Circuit Rider" dated 8 Oct. 1954! The article stated that "the opening service for the new Millers Creek Methodist church will be held on Nov. 14. The opening day should be one of great religious significance to our people." The first service was carried out as planned and it was, indeed, a wonderful experience. It was the culmination of our dreams and goals over the past two years. We now had our "church home" and could settle in and move on toward the greater goal of serving God and His people!

Guest pianist for the service was Doris Bumgarner Hayes, a former member of Friendship and daughter of the Rev. J. L. A. Bumgarner. The choir's rendition of "Thanks Be to God" by Dickson was a highlight of the service, as was the service of Holy Communion.

Infants baptized on this day were Van Wayland Bumgarner, son of Dr. and Mrs. James I. Bumgarner; John Thomas Caudill, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Alvan Caudill; and Kathy Jane Caudill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Caudill, Jr.

The evening service was highlighted by a solo, "Art Thou the Christ?" sung by our choir director, Mrs. C. J. Caudill and by the first sermon preached in the new sanctuary by the Rev. Ralph Taylor, Superintendent of the North Wilkesboro District. The first quarterly conference of the year convened after the service.

The Rev. John Carper, pastor of First Methodist Church in North Wilkesboro, was the visiting speaker for revival services which were held each evening of the week following the formal opening of the church.

Homecoming - 1955

Annual homecoming was observed on 25 Sept. 1955. The morning worship service included a communion service and special music by the choir. Dinner was served on the lawn at 12:30 o'clock. The afternoon service began with a report by the secretary of the Commission on Membership and Evangelism. The names of all members of the church including those who joined since the consolidation were read. A report was also given by the chairman of the Commission on Finance followed by entertainment by local and guest singers. The afternoon session featured a tribute to "Granny Wright" by the Rev. J. L. A. Bumgarner. A list of the contributors to our building fund was printed on the back of the Bulletin for the day - this list is included in the Appendices.



The Dedication - 7 September 1958. From left to right: Rev. R. G. Russell, Jr., Pastor; Rev. Garland Stafford, Supt. of North Wilkesboro District; Rev. Nolan D. Harmon, Bishop of Western North Carolina Conference; Rev. J. L. A. Bungarner and Rev. C. Jack Caudill, former pastors.



The Church School Assembly shortly after new sanctuary was completed.

Dedication of the Church

Sunday, 7 Sept. 1958 was a momentous occasion in the life of our church. The debts were paid and Bishop Nolan B. Harmon of Charlotte, N. C. dedicated the church during a special service held on this date. Participating in the burning of the note (money which had been borrowed to complete the building) were A. G. Nichols, Chm. of the Building Committee; Rev. C. Jack Caudill, pastor when the building was begun; Rev. J. L. A. Bumgarner, former pastor; and Sam W. Osborne, Lay Leader. The Rev. Garland Stafford, District Superintendent., and the current pastor, Rev. R. G. Russell, Jr. also took part in the service of dedication.

The special bulletin for the service was dedicated to two deceased members who were very active in the building of the church: Dr. James I. Bumgarner and Mr. J. H. Eudaily. Flowers for the altar were provided by Mrs. Eudaily in memory of her husband. The bulletin also contained a list of memorials and gifts (which will be included in the Appendices) and a brief history of the church. Annual homecoming was observed following the service with dinner on the grounds. Many former members and friends of the church were present to help celebrate this happy occasion.

Pastor's Report to Conference

On 13 March 1960, the Rev. R. G. Russell, Jr. reported that the "general state of the churches on this charge is considered good. The attendance at the District Vocations for youth and the District Youth Rally was good. Four young people from the charge attended the Senior Workshop at Lake Junaluska and five youth spent a week at Camp Tekoa. (The pastor and his wife served as counselors at Tekoa the last week in June). Millers Creek church successfully completed an every member canvas on May 15th. The proposed budget amounted to \$8,590 - more than \$9,000 was pledge. The pastor has met with the chairmen of all commissions, official boards, parsonage trustees, committees, etc. setting up the program for the year."

Worship Service Attendance, Aug. 14, 1960 - March 19, 1961

This report was compiled by Robert Hayes for the Commission on Membership and Evangelism. At this time the church roll included 170 members (132 "active" members, 15 members living in Wilkes County, but inactive for the past several years; and 23 members living out of the county). The results revealed an average attendance for this period of 53 - 12 regular attenders were non-members. During these early years, attendance at Church School exceeded that of church services by far.

Homecoming - 1960

On this occasion, 25 Sept. 1960, the church paid special tribute to the Rev. J. L. A. Bumgarner. Verbal tributes were offered from the pulpit by Blanche Gaither, Joy Johnson and C. C. Brooks, Jr. The Rev. Robert Russell, Jr., pastor, presented Rev. Bumgarner an engraved, gold wrist watch; a gift from the congregation. The following message was printed in the bulletin:

"Today it is with great pleasure that we pay our very special respect and tribute to the Rev. J. L. A. Bumgarner. Through many years he has given unselfishly not only to this, his home church, but to many other churches in western North Carolina. The true nature of his Christian faith is shown in his never-ending interest in the youth, his concern for the total program of the church, and his cooperation and dedicated service. Our lives are continually enriched and inspired by his compassion for his fellowmen, his benevolent stewardship, and his unfailing hope in the future of the church and Kingdom of God. We extend a most cordial welcome to all of his children and their families, as they with us his friends, join in paying honor to this noble and distinguished preacher of the Gospel."

Rev. C. J. Caudill was guest minister on this date and brought the morning sage.

The Parsonage

A conference was called at the church on Tuesday evening, 15 Nov. 1960 the purpose of discussing the building of a new parsonage. The pastor, Rev. Russell, outlined the basic facts to be considered by the Board. After deliberation, C. C. Brooks, Jr. made the motion: "This church agrees to build a parsonage and pay for it as our own parsonage with the understanding that no time limit is involved." (In view of the possibility that Millers Creek might become a station, it had been recommended that Millers Creek build parsonage without assistance from the other churches on the charge - it suggested that they might pay proportionate amounts into the parsonage fund (upkeep and maintenance)). This motion was seconded and approved.

Robert Hayes moved that a building committee composed of Van Caudill, Paul Roy, Isaac Royal, Lawson Eller and Mrs. Ed Bumgarner be presented to quarterly conference for approval. This motion was also seconded and approved. Duties of the building committee included further investigation regarding the purchase

of additional land, securing blueprints and estimate cost of construction, developing a financial plan for payment, etc. (Paragraph 180, The Methodist Discipline).

On 18 March 1962, the building committee presented their findings to the congregation. They had obtained approval of the District Committee on Church Locations, a suitable building site, estimated cost (\$15,000), blueprints, etc. They reported that the Rev. J. L. A. Bumgarner began the building fund with a \$500 donation. An additional \$4,800 was pledged by members present on this date.

Instead of a separate dining room as previously planned, the blueprints called for a combined dining-family room which afforded a spacious entertaining area. The congregation was especially pleased with the full basement plan which has a second bath, study with outside entrance and a guest bedroom. (The space for the study was used very little as such and was later converted into a kitchen. This made a small apartment which has proved very useful on many occasions. It has been occupied by Duke students for several weeks each summer for the past ten years or more).

A church conference was held on Sunday, 25 March, at which time M. F. Bumgarner, Sr. presented a deed for the parsonage site across the highway from the church. The land was given in memory of Mr. Bumgarner's son, Henry and his wife, Pansy P. Bumgarner. The deed was accepted by Isaac Royal, Chairman of the church trustees. The church greatly appreciated Mr. Bumgarner's generous gift of this ideal location for the parsonage.

The brick house constructed by Claude Foster was completed in time for the current pastor, the Rev. R. L. Clayton, Jr. and his family to move in before Christmas, 1963. The final cost amounted to nearly \$16,000 which did not include the carport, paved driveway, landscaping, furnishings, etc.

The furnishings and decorations committee: Virginia C. Owens, Virginia R. Bumgarner, Jamie C. Tolbert and Joe Owings were commended for their accomplishments in carrying out their duties.

The Old Parsonage

This building was renovated and used as a "parish house" for the next few years. The W.S.C S. purchased folding tables and chairs, necessary kitchen equipment, etc. and it was the site of many successful fund raising suppers as well as fellowship activities. It was also used as a meeting place by the Scouts and M.Y.F.

The building was eventually torn down to make way for a much needed parking area.

Gift of Land

During the above mentioned conference on March 25th, another generous gift to the church was announced. Dr. John Reid Bumgarner, Greensboro, N. C., son of the Rev. J. L. A. Bumgarner, recently purchased his father's homeplace which adjoined the old parsonage. He has donated to the church the strip of land back of the old parsonage, the width of the parsonage property and extending to the church line. The church is grateful to Dr. Bumgarner for this contribution.

Pastor's Report to Conference

The Rev. R. L. Clayton's report of March 21, 1963 included the following comments: "I look back upon this year with some sense of shame for the neglect and mistakes I have made, but with a great deal of gratitude for the understanding, the patience and support of the church members throughout the charge. A great deal has been accomplished in a material way, and much remains to be done.

Charlie Bumgarner donated flowers, weeds, trees and shrubbery for the new parsonage and a lot of loving care in setting them out. He was assisted by his brothers, Vincent and M. F., and by Isaac Royal, Lawson Eller and others." (P.S. We wonder if Rev. Clayton intended "seeds" for weeds!)

Rev. Clayton also stated in this report that "Sam Osborne, Lay Leader, is a man I can depend on personally for a great deal. He is my pastor in a very real sense. Sam is serving in a very important function right now by listening to the pastor, advising and encouraging him. All of you do a pretty good job at that." He expressed appreciation to C. C. Brooks, Jr. for his long hard work with the young people and also to James Faw and Norma Collins for their patience as youth counselors. He went on to say, "The Millers Creek Church continues to bless us by setting a worshipful mood and making each service a thing of great beauty and quietness. I try to bring the Lord to you during the worship hour, but the choir at Millers Creek brings the Lord to us more than anything else during the week."

In his report to conference on 12 April 1964, Rev. Clayton made the following statements: "At Millers Creek last summer, Rev. Lee Spencer was with us and led five young people to make decisions for Christ (Judy and Sheila Haynes, Steve Osborne, Eugene and David Rash).

Our MYF has continued to meet throughout the year under the able leadership of Mrs. L. H. Collins and Mrs. Baxter Bumgarner. The W.S.C.S. has worked hard to help meet the building notes for the parsonage. We have had several fine study courses on a charge-wide basis, held by the W.S.C.S. groups. A lovely organ has been purchased, the project of two Sunday School classes, Fidelis and Fellowship classes. They have been working on the organ fund as well as supporting the other financial needs of the church, and are within about \$300 of paying off the organ.

The trustees have made substantial improvements to the heating and insulation of the church building. A number of people have worked on the old parsonage which we now call the parish house. It has been a welcome addition to our physical plant this year. Many people have helped in that work but especially to be commended are James Faw for leading in the alterations to the interior, J. Van Caudill for painting the outside, and Ike Royal for making a window between the kitchen and the other part of the building.

J. Van Caudill for painting the outside, and Ike Royal for making a window between the kitchen and the other part of the building.

I want to thank all of you who have helped with the shoe project, and most of all Van Caudill who I reckon has put in about as many hours as I have getting the names of the children and making this program a success."

He also reported that a committee made up of Sam Osborne, J. Van Caudill, C. C. Brooks, Jr., Mrs. Edd Bumgarner, Mrs. Robert Hayes, and Lawson Eller was appointed by the Board to investigate with the District Superintendent the possibility of dividing the charge in order to have a full time pastor and worship services every Sunday instead of twice a month.

Around Christmas time, 1963, the pastor, Sam Osborne and Roscoe Lyall organized an alcoholics prayer group. Rev. Clayton reported that this group has been responsible for sending six men to Hebron or some other Christian home for alcoholics. They have organized an AA chapter in the prison unit and have made several visits to the jails. Rev. Clayton stated that "we have closed our eyes to problems like this for the most part. This isn't a pretty thing and we get in the habit as we go through life of protecting ourselves from ugliness, but Christ didn't mind going into some ugly places, and he wants us to...for His sake.

Now this work, like the shoe project, has taken up a great deal of my time. And at times I've had to neglect other types of church work, but when a man is dying for lack of something that I may be able to do for him, it's hard to refuse. And I simply depend upon your understanding and your help and prayers."

The above report was especially included in order to show the Rev. Clayton's love for his fellowman and his dedication in trying to help alcoholics. It is true that he received some criticism from the churches, however, many of the members commend him for his work in this field.

Charge Divided

In 1965 another goal of the church was realized. The Millers Creek Charge which was made up of four churches, Millers Creek, Union, Arbor Grove and Charity, was divided. Effective 1 June 1965, Millers Creek and Charity became a two-point charge and the other two churches formed the Arbor Grove-Union Charge. It was agreed that the pastor will preach at Millers Creek every Sunday morning at 11:00 a.m. and at Charity two Sundays per month at 10:00 a.m. The congregation has been very happy with this arrangement. Having a worship service every Sunday has greatly enhanced the life of the church.

Lay Witness Mission

The Rev. Keith Howell helped to create a greater spirit of warmth and friendliness among our people. Several new members were added to the roll during his tenure. Prayer meetings were organized and the work of the church continued to progress.

Lay Witness Mission instigated by the Rev. Howell was one of the most notable experiences in the life of our church. Methodist laymen throughout the state took part in the mission. We had over 150 people attending each evening. It was an ecumenical event with all ages included.

Recreational Area

During the years 1968-1970 the men of the church were busy constructing a paved court for basketball, tennis, etc. Led by Wake Clark, they built an attractive, rustic picnic shelter in the wooded area behind the church. Young and old alike have enjoyed these facilities - it has been the site of many hot dog and hamburger suppers!

New Pews

Long awaited new pews for the sanctuary were purchased in 1968 - many of these were gifts and memorials which are listed in the Appendices.

Fellowship Hall

The original plans for the church called for an annex to house a fellowship hall, a kitchen, classrooms and study facilities. The time finally came when the church felt that we could no longer delay this much needed project if we were to adequately serve the needs of the congregation. Our pastor, the Rev. James L. McKinney, investigated our eligibility for assistance from the Duke Endowment program and District Mission Society early in 1971. We had over \$5,000 in our building fund at that time and could expect approximately \$10,000 from Duke Endowment and \$1,000 per year for the duration of our indebtedness from the Mission Society.

Rev. McKinney secured approval from the District Board of Church Location and Building and written consent of the District Superintendent. It had been recommended that current trustees serve as the building committee. Those who served during the building period were Lawson Eller, Leslie Rhoades, Wake Clark, Alvan Caudill, Vance Owens, Nat Tolbert, Bruce Faw, Lonnie Johnston, Dale Church, Bill Tolbert, Tony Higgins and Robert Smithey. Wake Clark was elected chairman of the building committee. The contractor was the P. S. West Construction of Statesville, N. C.; the architect was Tom Hutchins also of Statesville. The estimated cost of the annex was \$72,300.

A building program of this magnitude involves a great deal of planning and hard work. We have on file copies of letters which attest to our pastor's diligent attention to the project. Many frustrations such as shortage of brick and other irritating delays occurred throughout the building period. Although it was still not completed as promised for Homecoming Day, 1973, it was used for the first time on that occasion. Many relatives and visitors joined the congregation at lunch following the worship service. Having our very own dining hall after all this time was a joyous occasion and we thanked God for the resources that made it possible.

The church had its first pictorial directory printed shortly before the completion of the fellowship hall. On the pastor's page of the directory, Rev. McKinney wrote: "Only vain thinking would lead us to believe that we, the present congregation, are solely responsible for what has been accomplished thus far in the life of Millers Creek United Methodist Church. Many generations building upon the rock have given us this great heritage. Paul said it this way: 'I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.' (1 Cor.3:6). Many have come before us, new leadership has come our way and shall continue to do so, but it is God who gives the increase as we let our lives be used by Him."

The Pastor's Report, Nov. 18, 1974

Excerpts from Rev. McKinney's report to conference on this date are as follows: "Since our last charge conference we have moved into our new addition and are enjoying its use. Our Family Ministries Coordinator, Mrs. Gwyn Church, has set up a family night schedule (every fifth Sunday) which has had excellent response. Our Cub Pack and Scout Troop are now meeting in the fellowship hall.. it has also been used for an extension course for the Wilkes Community College.

The Millers Creek church is now operating two week day programs for pre-school children. We have 21 children in the kindergarten and 20 in the play school for 3 and 4 year olds. The Millers Creek Optimist Club considered this program a community service and purchased playground equipment for us.

Finances have been strained a little this year due to a push to meet one-half of our building debt in January. We received an \$8,000 grant from Duke Endowment. District and Conference obligations have not been met, but we expect to meet them by the deadline. The annual turkey supper and bazaar will be on Nov. 23rd (this event netted \$1200 profit!).

I feel the state of the charge is good. We have good lay participation and the general program of the church is making progress."

Activities and Events
1974 - 1975

During 1974 our pastor participated in the Leader of Leaders Training at Statesville, N. C. He and his wife attended a week of Pastor's School at Duke Divinity School and as District Coordinator of Family Ministries, Rev. McKinney directed a District Family Camporama at Elk Shoals in July. He also served as District Statistician.

It has been said that a congregation works better and is never happier than when they are working on a special project or toward a specific goal. At this time, the primary goal was paying off the debt owed on the fellowship hall.

In September, 1974 gifts were received from the J. L. A. Bumgarner family to establish a perpetual cemetery fund. The church greatly appreciated these gifts which will help to secure the maintenance of the two cemeteries.

The pastor's study underwent a "face-lift" early in 1975. Bookshelves and cabinets were donated by Mrs. A. G. Nichols in memory of her husband. Drapes donated by Blanche Gaither were altered to fit by Mrs. Will Adams (mother of our own Virginia Brooks); rods for the drapes were contributed by Dale Church. The pastor refinished the desk and a glass top for it was supplied by Lucy and Norman Marion.

A ladies exercise class was started - the men and boys enjoyed another season of softball - the congregation continued to enjoy fifth Sunday night suppers and get-togethers.

The pastor's confirmation classes resulted in the addition of several young people to our roll.

The ladies met frequently to work on items for bazaars. These work sessions were not only useful but provided a time for fun, diversion and good fellowship.

July 4, 1976

The congregation enjoyed a unique experience on this date. At the close of an old-fashioned picnic, a "crier" (Jim Earnhardt), complete with costume and white wig, burst into the hall excitedly announcing the Declaration of Independence! He carried with him the "official document" which was signed by 118 of those present. Afterwards the congregation, many of whom were in colonial dress, joined in games of yesterday and a song fest.

Dedication of Fellowship Hall

The debt on the fellowship hall was paid off ahead of schedule and the final grant from Duke Endowment was received in December, 1977. On Sunday, 3 July 1978, Bishop Scott Allen led the dedication service. The District Superintendent, Rev. Robert Stamey, was also present for the service.

Christmas, 1978

A special Christmas program, "Hanging of the Greens," was held at the morning worship service on Sunday, Dec. 10th. The children especially enjoyed the annual party and tree trimming that evening in the fellowship hall which included refreshments for everyone and visit from Santa. Several adults enjoyed a meal at Elk Shoals during the holidays. The choir presented a Christmas Cantata on Dec. 18th

Newsletter, March 1979

"The Newsletter" (formerly "The Circuit Rider") reported that "Everyone has been saddened by the death of Sonny Gaither and we extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends. He was a lifelong member of our church and a dedicated Christian. Yes, Sonny will be truly missed." Although a victim of cerebral palsy, Sonny attended worship services frequently and was a faithful supporter of the church.

"The church was greatly blessed by the message brought by the Rev. Phil Stone, Minister of Education and Youth at Wilkesboro Baptist Church on Sunday, Feb. 25th. Our pastor participated in the pulpit exchange, was preaching at Wilkesboro.

Revivals

We have averaged having two revivals each year in our church since 1954. We have been privileged to have capable ministers who delivered timely and inspiring messages. One such service was conducted in Nov., 1976 by Dr. James Peters, Associate Director of the Council on Ministries of the Western North Carolina Conference. The 1977 revival was led by the Rev. Worth Sweet, pastor of the Jefferson United Methodist Church. A lay revival was held in April, 1978. Speakers for this event were Jim Earnhardt, Mark Brooks, Wanda Chamberlain, Paul Adams and Bill Haynes. In Oct., 1978 the revival was led by the Rev. Jim Allred of Mt. Carmel in Winston-Salem. We would like to be able to state that the church was filled for these and all revivals and that many decisions for Christ were made, but this would not be true. We do have a number of faithful members including the choir, whose presence can be depended upon. The speakers for another lay revival held in April, 1979 were C. C. Brooks, Jr., Jim Earnhardt, Bill Tolbert and Jim Wyatt. In the May 1979 "Newsletter," the pastor, Rev. Charles Stevens, commented that "the church was true to form! Out of the 100 who could have been here, only half were present. We need to remember that church and religion is not just an one hour thing each week. We do not give our time, talents, or wealth to the church the way we should. Someday those that seem to miss out on the happenings at church will realize what they have missed. We have not taken advantage of Christ's Church the way we should have!!"

"Newsletter"--June 1979

On the pastor's page, Rev. Stevens wrote: "This is my last newsletter as your pastor. In speaking for my family and myself, we would like to thank you all for a great four years. The love, acceptance and friendship will never be forgotten." In reviewing the accomplishments and services of the past four

years, he stated: "One of the most meaningful services for me has been Christmas Eve Communion. The first year we had around 20 people and last Christmas we had 62. This evening has always made my Christmas more special..We have had some bad and sad times but over all they have been great! I thank you for allowing me to be a part of this church. May God bless you all."

A Message from your Pastor

In the July, 1979 "Newsletter," the new pastor, the Rev. Steve Rainey stated: "In just the three Sundays that I have been here, I find you are an exciting, lively, responsive "bunch" to preach to and to worship with. I am looking forward to the challenge of making 'the Word become flesh' as we worship together, play together, and 'be Christian' together here at Millers Creek.

Leslie and I are enjoying living in the parsonage. The house has a fresh, bright coat of paint and the den has new furniture. Leslie and I invite you to drop by and see the improvements you have made. The double carport is a new convenience for us and we are enjoying using it..

I want to be your pastor. I want to be available when you need me or want me..during times of grief, pain, celebration, whenever!"

Another note in the "Newsletter" read as follows: "We wish to express a special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bumgarner and to Mr. and Mrs. Terry Bumgarner, owners of Lovette Egg Company, who donated the hams for the supper given on May 26th. A profit of \$606 was made at this supper to apply on special repairs to the church."

Reception for Rev. and Mrs. J. L. McKinney

Since the McKinneys were with us when the fellowship hall was constructed, it seemed only fitting that this was the place chosen by their children to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on 2 Sept. 1979. The McKinneys have another special "stake" in our church since their son, Steve, married a local girl and member of our church, Batina Rash!

Millers Creek Volunteer Fire Department

A note of appreciation for our local fire department appeared in the Sept., 1979 "Newsletter." Members of our church who give of their time in service to the community are Alvan Caudill, Wake Clark, Gene Rash, Jack Rash, Bill Tolbert, Jim Tolbert and Jack Wagoner. Two former pastors, Charles Stevens and Jim McKinney, were also active volunteers. The pastors of our church have always encouraged the support of organizations and schools in our area, urged members to vote their choice in elections, etc. The Rev. Steve Rainey served as chaplain to the Blackhawks ball teams at West High School and our present pastor, the Rev. Ron Allen is now filling this position.

Working, Caring and Sharing in God's Kingdom

We greatly appreciated the leadership and direction of the Rev. Worth Sweet in the new stewardship campaign which began in 1979.

In the December, 1979 "Newsletter" the pastor gave the following report: "Our Working, Caring, and Sharing crusade has been a tremendous success! The 1980 budget called for \$31,323 and as of December 1st we have commitments totaling more than \$34,000. This is super! I want to thank everyone who spent many long hours and much talent making this crusade a joyful success. Hopefully the \$2,600 over the budget may be applied toward our \$13,000 trustee request for repairs. I genuinely feel that our stewardship effort has reaped more than financial support. I am enthusiastic about this spirit that has been stirred by our effort...thanks again for your generous response."

Proclamation Evangelism

On Sunday, March 23 through Tuesday, the 25th, we celebrated "Proclaim the Word," an evangelistic event held by all the churches in the Southeastern United States. The Rev. John Ferree of Long's Chapel near Lake Junaluska spoke to us during morning worship on Sunday. He was with us for a fellowship meal Sunday evening and talked with us about visitation. On Monday and Tuesday

evenings, several visits were made among our church members, especially shut-ins and new members. The event was coordinated by Linda Becton, Walter Broyhill, Robert Hayes and the pastor.

Maundy Thursday

One of the most meaningful traditional events in our church has been a communion service on this date. In 1980 Chip Bungarner brought railroad spikes and C. C. Brooks provided crowns of thorns for the occasion. Bill Tolbert build the cross which was spotlighted on the lawn. We celebrated a progressive Holy Communion service beginning in the fellowship hall with everyone sitting around the tables in the form of a large cross serving each other the bread and wine, hearing the Scriptures read, and singing together. Then we progressed to the front lawn to stand beneath the empty cross as the choir sang "Were You There?" Our final movement was to the darkened sanctuary for prayer and meditation.

Homecoming, 1980

It was good to have a former pastor, the Rev. Guy Godfrey back with us on this date. He brought the morning worship message which was followed by a fellowship meal. He remained with us and conducted a revival each evening through Tuesday. The Rev. Godfrey and his wife, Carol, are presently at St. Matthews church in Morganton.

Conference Report

Excerpts from Rev. Rainey's Charge Conference Report of 30 Nov. 1980:

"Membership cultivation has been quite fulfilling. In the first 12 months I have been pastor, the Millers Creek church has been blessed with 50 new children and adults. In this calendar year, we have received 35 new members: 7 are preparatory members; 12 have joined by confession of faith through the Confirmation Class or as adults on profession of faith; 5 have transferred from othe United Methodist churches, 11 have transferred from other denomi-

nations. I do not believe salvation or spiritual growth is a numbers game; yet this growth reflects the potential influence our churches can generate in our community. Moreover, fresh faces offer us fresh perspectives on being Christian.

Thanks to the planning and work of our Family Life Coordinator, Virginia Brooks, we have had several delicious meals and good fellowship together.

Conference Report

In this report, dated Nov. 18, 1981, Rev. Rainey stated: "God has blessed us with continued growth - new members tell me that they join because they feel welcome and that they see some genuine fellowship going on. The attendance at our meetings has been high, signifying the high level of responsibility and initiative of our leaders. We are fortunate to have leaders who think, pray and usually follow through on a task! After all, that is what the Christian ministry is all about: lay people as well as clergy sharing the functions of serving God rather than leaving it to one or two individuals.

The revival at Millers Creek was conducted by the Rev. George W. (Bill) Bumgarner. A meaningful four Sunday night lay revival was held in March in which several of our lay people shared their testimonies. The United Methodist Women led a service in February symbolizing the contribution women have made to the Gospel."

Mural in Fellowship Hall

The church is fortunate to have its own "artist in residence" in the person of Gayle Collins Benton. She has given freely of her time and talents for many years. An outstanding contribution was the mural she painted on a wall in the fellowship hall in memory of her father, Leander Hollister (Nick) Collins. She chose subtle pastels for the painting which features Jesus with children and little lambs against a mountainous background. The lambs and child holding a flute were included because Nick especially liked animals and music. The cobalt outline of the sky adds depth to the painting and the eyes of Jesus seem to follow one throughout the room. In older paintings, the robe of Christ

usually was painted with yellow ochre - modern versions are shaded in blue-gray. Gayle's painting differs from these in that she chose shades of sepia for the robe. The beautiful mural was unveiled and dedicated on Aug. 8, 1982.

Cemetery Road Paved

Through the efforts of Bobby Delp, church trustee, and James Faw, member of the cemetery committee, the State Department of Transportation agreed to pave and keep up the road beside the cemetery on highway #16. The road which extends beyond the cemetery to Bobby Delp's residence, is 780 feet long and 40 feet wide. Most of the cost of the paving (\$31,168) came from land owners along the road and other interested individuals. The church paid approximately \$700 on the paving which was completed in 1982.

The cemetery there has been surveyed and it is hoped that the plotting of grave sites will be completed soon.

Events - 1983

Student Recognition Sunday was observed on January 2nd of this year. College students taking part in the service were Stan Becton, Randy Lankford, Tina Delp, Rebecca Jo Triplett and Tony Delp.

The Rev. Al Andrews, pastor of the Wilkesboro Baptist Church, was the guest speaker on February 13. The service was led by our Lay Leader, Burl Lankford.

Alan Tolbert, church secretary, recently resigned to take a full time position in town. She was succeeded by Ann (Mrs. Mike) Bumgarner. Church members who have served in this volunteer job in the past 30 years are Mae Hayes, 13 years; Sidney Johnston, 12 years; Alan Tolbert, 4-5 years.

In preparation for our special Lenten worship service, a two day prayer vigil was held at the church on March 5th and 6th. The Rev. James C. (Pete) Peters, Vice-President of Personnel Services, United Methodist Publishing House, Nashville, Tn., conducted special services on Monday through Wednesday

evenings of this week. Holy Communion was held on Maundy Thursday and an Easter Sunrise service was presented at the cemetery on highway #16.

The Millers Creek United Methodist Church Scholarship Fund was established in March for the use of any church member going to a college or university. Mrs. Virginia Owens designated a portion of the funds received in memory of her husband, Vance, to start the scholarship fund. The church greatly appreciates this valuable contribution. Stan Becton, a rising sophomore at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, was the first recipient of this award.

Our first color directory was printed this year. This is the third directory prepared by the church - the members find them very useful in getting to know each other.

The worship service on Homecoming Day, 1983 featured our newly appointed district superintendent, the Rev. Frank Edwards. Flowers were placed on the altar to the glory of God and in honor of Rev. Edwards and his wife, Bobby, by the UMW.

Emphasis on Missions was celebrated on November 6. The guest speaker for the morning service was the Rev. Carl Jody. He and his wife are recently retired missionaries to Korea.

The Harvest Banquet which culminates our annual stewardship campaign was held on Sunday evening, November 6. At the end of the first week following the Banquet, commitments totaled 91% of the proposed budget of \$49,126 for 1984.

The local Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Wilkes Ministerial Association were sponsors of a program which placed United States flags on the graves of veterans of past wars for Veteran's Day. Veterans buried in our cemeteries who were thus honored included Newton W. Bumgarner, James Avery Johnson, Norman S. Marion, Alvin W. Pearson, Henry M. Pearson, Joe H. Pearson

and Isaac L. Royal. Veterans of the Civil War whose names were not turned in were Joseph Washington Hays and his son, Isaac Newton Hays.

The charge conference held at our church on Sunday evening, Nov. 20th, was well attended, organized and concise. A video tape of some of the activities during the year was shown at this meeting.

Christmas preparations began on Nov. 27th with the lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope. The choir presented a beautiful program of special Christmas music on the Sunday before Christmas. In keeping with tradition, the sanctuary was beautifully decorated with poinsettias donated by various members in memory or in honor of loved ones. The offering and canned goods were given to Wilkes Cares to be distributed to needy persons in the county. Following the worship service, the annual Christmas party was enjoyed in the fellowship hall. The traditional Christmas Eve Communion was offered in the sanctuary. Since Christmas came on Sunday this year, church school was omitted and we enjoyed a joint service with members of Charity church beginning at 10 o'clock. Jill Beshears presented special music for the service.

1984

College students were recognized on Sunday, Jan. 1, 1984. Those leading the morning worship service were Randy Lankford, Keith Lankford, Tina Delp, Teresa Royal and Tony Delp. We appreciated the time they spent preparing and sharing their thoughts in prayers and messages.

Periodically through this year, special tracts celebrating our Methodist heritage, were enclosed with Sunday bulletins. For example, the tract on Jan. 15th related John Wesley's own conversion experience.

In the absence of our pastor, Tom Thomas was the guest speaker on Feb. 12th. Mr. Thomas is a layman of Arbor Grove church and last year served as part-time lay pastor at the Moravian Falls charge.

The first covered-dish supper of the year was enjoyed on March 25th. A filmstrip presentation of "Jubilee - 200 years of American Methodism" was shown at this time.

The Rev. Bill Bumgarner, has co-authored a book on Methodist history entitled The Flowering of Methodism in Western North Carolina - the book is now available for \$11.50. Rev. Bumgarner retired from our annual conference two years ago and has served among other appointments as minister of visitation and evangelism at Centenary UMC in Winston-Salem.

The Maundy Thursday Communion Service and Easter Sunday worship service were as always very meaningful experiences for our congregation.

Mae Hayes and Gayle Benton attended the UMC History workshop for local church historians at Boone UMC on April 29th. Shortly after this session, the committee on history met and started making plans for this publication. Work has progressed almost continuously since that date.

The week beginning May 6th was proclaimed "Nurses Week" by Governor James Hunt. We salute and express our appreciation to the nurses from our church: Denise Johnston, Batina McKinney, Joan Johnson, Susan Bumgarner and Gloria Sarson.

As has been the custom for the past several summers, we again had an intern from Duke Divinity School with us for approximately 11 weeks. A graduate of DePaul University, Mary Whetstone grew up on her family's farm in Carmi, Ill. and served as associate pastor and youth director at First UMC there. A few days after her arrival, Mary returned to her home conference where she was ordained as a Methodist minister.

With the changing of pastors at our church this summer, Mary was immediately plunged into the work of the church: preaching, working in Bible School, teaching a study on The Parables, visitation, etc. She proved invaluable to the ministers and congregation during the transition. Our new pastor, the

Rev. Ronald Allen, wrote the following item in the Aug. 1984 Circuit Writer:

"We have greatly appreciate and enjoyed the friendship we have had with the minister that has lived in our basement this summer! Her leadership, insight and sincere attitude will greatly be missed...All of us want to wish her much success and offer her our prayers for her gifted future."

Excerpts from Mary's farewell letter to the church are as follows:

"Millers Creek has a choir that they should be very proud of. I will truly miss the joyful praises of your choir. May God continue to bless the voices of your choir and its leader! I could not begin to leave Millers Creek without a special thanks and a lot of love to the family who moved in and accepted the fact that I was a "package deal" which came with their new home! Ron, Susan, and Matthew what can I say? You have each played a very important role in giving me strength and support this summer. You were very willing and open to include me as a part of your family. I thank you for all the meals that you shared with me and for all the laughter and happiness that you brought to my life. You three will never really know how much I learned from you... Ron, thank you for being you. Since you are new here and beginning your own ministry, I realize in a lot of ways I could have been a burden to you. I appreciate your patience and willingness to share your gifts and talents with me. I wish you continued success in your ministry at Millers Creek.

I have truly learned a lot this summer and I am taking a lot with me that has benefited my ministry. I would, however, like to leave something with you. If I could choose my gift to give, my gift to you would be for you to truly realize the importance and influence of your church on the ministry and life of your "Summer Duke Student." You have helped me to shape and mold different aspects of my ministry and I appreciate that. My gift to you is that you realize and understand the valuable role you play in a student's development."

As you have no doubt surmised from the preceding pages, Millers Creek

United Methodist Church did receive a new minister in June. His notes which appeared in the August "Circuit Writer" are as follows:

"It is good to be in Millers Creek! When we first heard we were coming here, we had no idea where we were going! Some could not believe we were going so far up in the hills and some more told us negative things about how people made their living up here (they either grew it or distilled it). Yet there were others who told us what a wonderful place this is. So far we have experienced just that, some of the friendliest and kindest people we have ever known. We are grateful to all those who have helped us to settle in and begin our ministry here.

We are looking forward to many years of service here! I only hope that the cooperative spirit we have experienced thus far will continue. The effectiveness of any minister is greatly dependent upon the people they serve. If I am to be a success here, it will be because there were those faithful people who made me their Pastor, Minister, and Friend; and not only this but they also sought to share in the ministry of Christ with me.

Gradually, I am learning the community and some of the needs here. So much energy and time is spent in starting anew at a new work, that sometimes it can be very frustrating. But it does take time, and it takes time for new relationships; please stand with us as we do this.

I have many concerns as we begin our time of service here, some of those that stand out are the sick and homebound members of our church; the inactive and those who do not have a meaningful church relationship; the YOUTH I hope will continue to grow and be active here; it would be great if we could organize our Senior Citizens into a united group of their own. It thrills me that we have so many visitors and friends of our church present each Sunday. As we get acquainted I hope that many will make it known to me their desire to make a commitment to Christ and His Church. Most of all, we are glad you are here! Surely our friendship will continue.

One more thing, when you call me and the answering machine answers, please don't hang up! Machines can be a pain sometimes, however, it will enable me to be in touch with you and your need faster."

And now, after only five months since their arrival, the congregation feels very fortunate in having the Rev. Ron Allen and his family with us. We sincerely hope that we will live up to his expectations and continue the cooperative spirit he mentioned in his notes. We are happy to call him our 'Pastor, Minister, and Friend."

Susan is a valuable asset to the church and the community. She is sing-

ing with the choir, taking an active part in the UMW, leading a weekly exercise class, and teaching in our local schools. Matt is a bright, lovable little boy who would be welcome anywhere. It is our hope that they will be happy and fulfilled here at Millers Creek.

The trustees have been very busy attending to needed repairs and improvements. Elaine Mulholland, chair person of the parsonage trustees; George Lankford, chairman of church trustees and Eddie Johnston, vice-chairman, obtained approval from the Administrative Board and arranged for the following work which has been completed: Parsonage: painted inside, new refrigerator and disposal, basement doors replaced, storm windows and new floor covering installed, and the furnace, ducts, and chimney cleaned - it was recommended that the wood stove not be used unless a solution can be found for soot and smoke damage. Approval was given to sell the boxwoods and replace them with shrubbery approved by the pastor and his wife. Susan Euliss volunteered to take care of this project. Future plans for the parsonage include outside painting, a self-propelled lawn mower, and central air conditioning. Church: repaired locks and doors, six inches of insulation has been blown in overhead in the sanctuary and the educational building, tile was installed in the men's restroom, the ceiling and walls of the restroom were painted by Burl Lankford and the Boy Scouts - they also cleaned floors, and painted walls in downstairs of educational building and fellowship hall. A few of the projects completed in the last few years perhaps not mentioned elsewhere, were air conditioning in the sanctuary, new roofing for the sanctuary and educational building, a water line from the road to the building was replaced, parking area was enlarged and a walk paved to the rear entrance of the fellowship hall, and a new copying machine was purchased.

For sometime, we have been concerned about the stained glass windows in the sanctuary. We were advised that the windows which cost about \$600 each when installed are now valued at eight to nine thousand dollars each because the glass

and workmanship can no longer be replaced. Eddie Johnston contacted and set up meetings with representatives of companies who are installing protective window coverings. Several trustees and laymen, accompanied by the pastor, visited out-of-town churches to see the windows they have had covered. In August the Board granted approval for the windows to be restored and protected with a GE Lexan covering at a cost of around \$9,000. It is hoped that the covering will not only protect the windows, but will save on utility expenses. The work was completed in early September, 1984.

As has been the custom since the church was organized, the trustees assisted by members of the Men's Club and other interested individuals get together for "work nights" frequently. Those who were mentioned in recent newsletters as having helped with needed improvements and repairs are Wake Clark, Charles Wooten, Bruce Crane, Jim Tolbert, Jack Royal, Ed Benton, Howard Euliss, Allen Hudler, George Lankford, Robert Hayes, Rex Phillips, Walter Broyhill and the pastor. These are only a few of the many who have participated in these and other "behind the scenes" projects through the years.

Rev. Allen led devotions at Vespers Nursing Home on July 5th - this is another function sponsored by The Wilkes Ministerial Association. They also sponsor community programs during Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. Ministers throughout the county alternate in leading morning devotional programs which are broadcast by local radio stations.

Several years ago when Mrs. Agnes Caudill was teaching a youth class, she employed Isaac Royal to build a worship center for use in her classroom. It was later moved to the fellowship hall where it has been used by the many organizations meeting there. It was recently repainted by the Scouts and decorated with candles and flowers.

In order to preserve the identify and origin, the UMW recently had brass plaques made for several items of furniture, etc. which came from the two former churches and for various other items which have been contributed to the church.

Homecoming was celebrated on Sept. 23rd with our pastor bringing the morning message. Flowers were placed on the altar by the UMW in memory of members who have died during the past year: Annie P. Bumgarner, Betty T. Nichols, Clara E. Prevette, Joseph Rhoades, Zane Bumgarner, Neta C. Bumgarner, and Claude C. Brooks, Sr. A brief memorial service was observed in their honor.

Revival services were held on Sunday through Wednesday evenings of the following week. Special music was presented by our choir and by a quartet from Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church. The services were led by our pastor.

A special time was observed on Oct. 7th when we joined at the Lord's Table with Christians around the world. An offering for scholarships was received at this time.

For the past few weeks, preparations have been underway for the annual stewardship campaign. Everyone who attended, enjoyed the Harvest Banquet which was held on Nov. 11th. Although all of the commitments are not yet in, it is believed that the campaign was successful. A copy of the proposed budget for 1985 will be included in .

Coming Events

A bloodmobile will be held in the fellowship hall on Nov. 30th in loving memory of Mrs. Lucy Marion who was an active volunteer for the Red Cross and other civic organizations as well as in the church.

It's beginning to look like Christmas! A tree stands decorated and ready for the festivities in the fellowship hall during the month of December, thanks to Sidney Johnston, The Methodist Men, Denise Johnston, and others. An adequate supply of poinsettias has been promised for use in the sanctuary during the holidays and the choir is practicing special Christmas music. Mrs. Jill Beshears will present special music on Sunday morning, Dec. 16th and the annual Christmas party will be held that evening at 6:00 o'clock. The cantata, "Jesus Is Born," will be performed by the choir on Sunday, Dec. 23rd during the worship services.

The Administrative Board and The Council on Ministries

The happenings noted on the preceeding pages could not have occurred and the church could not have functioned without the organizations behind the scenes.

Prior to 1952, the two former churches operated with a minimum of officers and meetings. Although they did not have the formal organization we know today, they did have dedicated, competent leaders to administer the affairs of the churches.

With expanded membership and a greater potential for growth, it was apparent that the new church would need a more structured, uniform means of government; thus the first Official Board, later to be known as the Administrative Board, was established in the fall of 1952. At the same time the four commissions required by The Methodist Church - evangelism, education, missions, and stewardship - were set up and regular meetings were scheduled. Through the years, additional commissions and committees have been created as needed.

The Council on Ministries was activated in our church about eight or nine years ago. It is the responsibility of this council to guide planning for mission and ministry in our congregation. It is to consider, initiate, develop and coordinate proposals for the church's strategy for mission. These proposals are submitted to the Administrative Board for revision and appropriate action, and after the board adopts a program, the Council on Ministries implements the plans assigned to it. (See Book of Discipline, #251).

We, too, have been blessed these past thirty years with capable members who were willing to give of their time and abilities in service to their church. Because several of the early annual directories of officers, conference reports, and other records are missing, we cannot name the many who have served in various capacities since the beginning of the church. We are including below the earliest existing directory (1954-1955), and the current directory for 1984. We believe that a comparison of these two directories will be of interest as well as informative.

Officers 1954-1955

Stewards: Mrs. Annie Church, Fred Gaither, Avery Johnson, Mrs. Bessie Rash, C. S. Bumgarner, Mrs. J. H. Eudaily, Robert Hayes, Dorothy Brooks, Nat Tolbert, Sam Osborne, Mrs. Hattie Gaither, Mrs. Wiley Bumgarner and Honorary members: Mrs. S. A. Rash and Mrs. J. L. A. Bumgarner.

Trustees of Property: Lin Bumgarner, J. H. Eudaily, Q. O. Kilby, A. G. Nichols, Paul Delp, Paul Jones, Joe Owings, J. Van Caudill, James I. Bumgarner.

Commission on Membership and Evangelism: Lawson Eller, Avery Johnson, Mrs. Neta Bumgarner, Robert Hayes, Mrs. C. S. Bumgarner, Mrs. Lillian Walker, Mrs. Hattie Gaither, Mrs. Jack Wagoner, Mrs. Annie Church, Mrs. Nat Tolbert, Mrs. Isaac Royal and Paul Delp.

Commission on Education: Sam Osborne, J. Van Caudill, M. F. Bumgarner, Mrs. Norma Collins, Mrs. Ray Bumgarner, Mrs. Avery Johnson, Mrs. Robert Hayes and Avery Johnson, S.S. Supt.

Commission on Missions: Mrs. Maribel Elledge, Mrs. J. H. Eudaily, Clara Eller, Baxter Bumgarner, Mrs. Joe Owings, and Mrs. M. F. Bumgarner.

Commission on Finance: Paul Delp, Nat Tolbert, Paul Jones, Fred Gaither, Jack Wagoner, Joe Owings, and Quinton (Chip) Bumgarner.

Parsonage Trustees: Mrs. M. F. Bumgarner, Mrs. Norma Collins, Clara Eller, and Isaac Royal.

Building Committee: A. G. Nichols, Avery Johnson, M. F. Bumgarner, Robert Hayes, Lin Bumgarner, J. H. Eudaily and Nat Tolbert.

Committee on Decorations, Furnishings and Memorials: Mrs. Agnes Caudill, Mrs. Blanche Gaither, Mrs. Neta Bumgarner, Clara Eller, Mrs. Mary Lee Bumgarner and Isaac Royal.

Cemetery Committee: Robert Hayes, Mrs. Neta Bumgarner, M. F. Bumgarner, Fred Gaither, Mrs. Hattie Gaither and Clara Eller.

Communion Steward: Mrs. Isaac Royal

District Steward: G. C. McGlamery of Charity Church; Reserve: Mrs. Annie Church of Millers Creek Church.

Delegates to Conference: C. S. Bumgarner; Mrs. Annie Church, Alternate.

Church School Supt.: Avery Johnson

Delegate to Annual Conference; (1955) Mrs. Isaac Royal; Alternate: Willa Nichols of Arbor Grove Church.

Recording Steward: M. F. Bumgarner

Charge Treasurer: L. H. Shepherd of Arbor Grove Church.

Millers Creek Treasurer: Paul Delp

Officers - 1984

x - member of Administrative Board

o = member of Council on Ministries

Bishop

District Superintendent

ox Chairperson Council on Ministries

ox Chairperson Administrative Board

Dr. L. Bevel Jones III

Frank Edwards

Linda Hale

C. C. Brooks, Jr.

Age Level Coordinators

ox Children

ox Youth

ox Adult

ox Family

Susan Buliss

Jo Ann Wooten

Robert Hayes

Virginia Brooks

Work Area Chairpersons

ox Ecumenical Affairs & Religion & Race

ox Education

ox Evangelism

ox Mission

ox Social Concerns

ox Stewardship

ox Worship

ox Health and Welfare

ox Young Adult Ministries

Carol Crane

Judy Foster

Linda Bungarner

Virginia Bungarner

Mary Hester Eller

Wayne Barker

Elaine Mulholland

Belva Tolbert

Jackie Lankford & Greta Templeton

Ex-Officio Members

ox Lay Leader

ox UMW President

x Church Treasurer

x Financial Secretary

x Membership Secretary

x Finance Committee Chairperson

ox Annual Conference Delegate

Walter Broyhill

Dot Clark

Jim Tolbert

Allen Hudler

Mae Hayes

Burl Lankford

Mae Johnson

x Members-At-Large of Administrative Board1984

Betty Greer

Dave Cubert

Randy Bungarner

Steve Bungarner

Bill Kuenzel

Brad Templeton

Bob Delp

Wake Clark

1985

Gayle Benton

Linda Plemmons

David Hughes

Charles Hale

Barry Hudler

Agnes Caudill

Mac Bryan

Lillian Rash

Jeannie Davis

1986

Bruce Crane

Fred Reeves

Ed Benton

Pres. of UMYF

Jack Royal

Nancy Osborne

Jim Smith

Charles Wooten

Officers - 1984, continued:

Honorary Members of Administrative Board

Spencer Bumgarner C. C. Brooks, Sr. Fred Gaither James Cain

Board of Trustees (Chairperson is on Administrative Board)198419851986

Norma Collins
Virginia Owens
Robert Hayes

Eddie Johnston
Alvan Caudill
James Faw
George Lankford

Chip Bumgarner
Lawson Eller
Balmer Hayes
Wake Clark

Committees

Nominations and Personnel 1984 - x Norma Collins and Jamie Tolbert
1985 Lawson Eller and Virginia Owens

Parsonage 1984 x Susan Kuenzel, Zedena Barker, Dorcas Conrad
1985 Elaine Mulholland, Ann Bumgarner

Pastor-Parish Relations 1984 - x Bill Tolbert, Steve McKinney
1985 Agnes Caudill, Wayne Barker

Communion Steward

Ginny McQuire

xChoir Director

Dot Clark

UMYM Counselor

Vickie Bryan (moved - Roger and Sandi Chamberlain appointed)

Church Secretary

Ann Bumgarner

Organist

Brenda Stone

Pianist

Rebecca Faw

ox Coordinator of Communications

Sidney Johnston

ox President of UMM

Jim Watson

Committee on Records & History

Mae Hayes, Gayle Benton, Virginia Owens, Sidney Johnston

Cemetery Committee

James Faw, Alvan Caudill, Ed Bumgarner

Sunday School Secretary

Phoebe Owings

The Ministry and Lay Officers

The Ministry: The Church is very proud of those who grew up under its tutelage and dedicated their lives as Methodist ministers. Those from Friendship Methodist Church were Thomas H. Cole, J. L. A. Bumgarner, S. N. Bumgarner, Quincy A. Bumgarner, Albert Wellons (all deceased) and G. W. (Bill) Bumgarner who at present lives with his wife and daughter in Winston-Salem, N. C. Although officially retired, he is very active as a visiting preacher, and in research and writing.

The Rev. C. Jack Caudill was a member of the old Millers Creek Methodist Church. He is currently living with his family in Winston-Salem and is an Associate Minister of Centenary United Methodist Church there.

Licensed Lay Preachers: For many years, M. F. Bumgarner, Sr. was a licensed lay preacher in Friendship and Millers Creek United Methodist Churches, an office he held until his death in 1973.

Zane Bumgarner (deceased) and Kenny Hayes were graduates of the 1965 Pastors' School at Duke University Divinity School and were awarded the License to Preach. Kenny later relinquished his license to enter the field of education.

Although we have not had a Methodist minister to come from our church since Jack Caudill, one of our former members, Joe Allen Owings, son of Joe and Phoebe B. Owings, is an ordained Baptist minister and is currently attending the Mid-American Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, Tn. He expects to finish his studies within the year. We are proud of this young man and wish for him a happy, successful future in the service of our Lord.

Certified Lay Speakers: The following men capably filled this and other pulpits on many occasions: J. Van Caudill, Sam Osborne, Henry Pearson, and C. C. Brooks, Jr.

Lay Leaders: This responsible office has been held by the following, many of whom served more than one term: M. F. Bumgarner, Lawson Eller, J. Van Caudill, Kenny Hayes, Tony Higgins, Sam Osborne, Avery Johnson, C. C. Brooks, Jr., James Earnhardt, Burl Lankford and Walter Broyhill.

Delegates to Annual Conference: Mr. and Mrs. J. Van Caudill, Neta Bumgarner, and Mae Johnson (perhaps others).

The Financial Program

Although it was sometimes difficult to meet the annual budget, somehow the church always managed to meet all obligations by the deadline. We dreaded the times toward the end of the fiscal year when we had to rely on special fund raising projects or "pass the plate" for additional contributions! The stewardship campaign, "Working, Caring, Sharing in God's Kingdom," began in the fall of 1979 and has been very successful to date in getting pledges to cover the major portion of the budget.

Paul Delp served as treasurer during the building years and through April, 1956, at which time Jim Tolbert was appointed. Jim reports a few interesting facts from his books: The total budget for the fiscal year, June 1, 1956 through May 31, 1957 was \$12,045.00...of this amount \$7,603.00 was spent on indebtedness. The 1984 budget amounted to \$49,126.00; however well over \$50,000.00 was spent this year. The electric bill for 1956-57 averaged \$4.55 per month - the bill in 1984 averaged near \$200.00 per month.

Mr. Tolbert reminds us that the unified budget (Church and Church School) was adopted in 1964 and the fiscal budget year was changed from June-May to the calendar year beginning January, 1973.

In 1955 the church saw the need for a financial secretary to record special offerings and memorials and to keep a record of contributions by each donor. The first book was set up by Dr. James I. Bungarner and Mae Hayes and the task was assumed by Mrs. Norma Collins who faithfully executed the duties for 26 years. Allen Hudler was appointed to this position when Mrs. Collins resigned in 1981 and is still competently serving in this capacity.

The financial program is a joint effort of several individuals working toward the same goal. Of course, the success of the program depends on every member of the church. In 1984 those who served in addition to the treasurer and financial secretary who are named above, were the Chairperson of Stewardship:

Wayne Barker; Finance Committee Chairperson: Burl Lankford; and Lay Leader:
Walter Broyhill.

Millers Creek United Methodist Church
Proposed Budget, 1985

<u>Pastor's Support:</u>	<u>M.C. '85</u>	<u>Charity '85</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Salary	\$16,650.00	\$1,850.00	\$18,500.00
Travel	1,800.00	200.00	2,000.00
Hospitalization Ins.	810.00	90.00	900.00
Utilities Allowance	<u>900.00</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>1,000.00</u>
	\$20,160.00	\$2,240.00	\$22,400.00

Conference & District Apportionments:

Conference Outreach (Single Figure)	10,000.00
Missional Priorities	171.00
Lake Junaluska	<u>1,515.00</u>
	\$11,825.00

Local Church Expense

Literature	1,500.00
Organist	1,284.00
Pianist	192.00
Choir Director	1,284.00
Janitorial	1,350.00
Electricity	2,400.00
Water	75.00
Fuel	2,800.00
Telephone	650.00
Insurance	925.00
Building & Improvements	2,500.00
Florist	200.00
Mowing	1,600.00
Music	100.00
Office Supplies & Postage	1,000.00
UMYF	500.00
Work Area Commissions	100.00
Duke Student	300.00
Vacation Church School	250.00
Wilkes Ministers Assoc.	50.00
Conference Delegate	150.00
Minister	150.00
Harvest Banquet	500.00
Community Outreach (Emergency Fund)	300.00
Miscellaneous	400.00
Nursery Worker	520.00
Window Repair & Protection (loan)	<u>1,800.00</u>
TOTAL	\$22,868.00
Total Proposed Budget	\$54,865.00
Needed Each Week	1,055.00

(We have a little more than 100 families which means it will take \$10.55 per week per family. If average attendance stays at 150 or better, about 55 families would need to give \$19.18 per week per family to meet this budget).

The Church School

Many of us have happy memories of childhood experiences and good times at Sunday School. Come Sunday morning, we didn't have to decide what we were going to do, we knew we were going to Sunday School and Church if worship services were scheduled for that day. We looked forward to meeting our friends there and of learning and reciting Bible verses together and having "company" go home with us for Sunday "dinner" or being the "company" in the home of friends or relatives.

Both Friendship and old Millers Creek churches maintained well structured, active Sunday Schools and the classes were supplied with approved Methodist literature and necessary supplies.

In the early years, before regularly scheduled meetings of church officials, the assemblies held before Sunday School classes convened were vital to the life of the church. It was during this period every Sunday that the leaders and congregation got together to discuss the work of the church and to make plans and decisions.

Since worship services were held only twice each month, this assembly also provided the opportunity for spiritual renewal and fellowship. Usually the Church School Superintendent opened the meeting with a brief devotional period which included prayer and congregational singing. Announcements of current events were made and necessary business of the church were attended to at this time.

In 1952 the first Commission on Education in the new church was very active in supervising the Church School. Workshops for teachers were held on a charge-wide basis and various equipment and materials were purchased. Several methods for stimulating interest and attendance were employed through the years such as attendance pins, having children and young people take part in Sunday School assemblies and worship services, special outings and activities, birthday banks, etc. Bibles were given to students entering the Junior class - this practice is still continued.

For many years, the Church School maintained a separate treasury. Cash collected in the classes was used primarily for literature and supplies for the Sunday School. Fifth Sunday offerings were sent to a Methodist Children's Home. Periodically, surplus funds were turned over to the church treasurer usually earmarked for the building fund. J. H. Eudaily was the first secretary-treasurer of the Church School after the merger, followed by Ivie Dean Royal, Mildred Wagoner, Lillian Rash, Robert Hayes, Madeline Foster and Phoebe Owings.

The unified budget plan was adopted effective June, 196 . Since that time all monies have gone directly to the church treasurer.

Those who served as church school superintendents since the merger: (Most of these served several terms each) C. S. Bumgarner, Avery Johnson, Sam Osborne, Robert Hayes, C. C. Brooks, Jr., J. Van Caudill, Kenneth Walsh.

In 1969-1970, assemblies prior to classes and the office of church school superintendent were discontinued.

Division Superintendents
(now Age Level Coordinators)

Children: Mary Hester Eller, Ella Mae Faw, Sidney Johnston, Linda Becton, Jean Rash, Susan Euliss.

Youth: Balmer Hayes, Mae Johnson, Darrell Graybeal, Ned Pierce, Nellie Dillard, Bill Tolbert, Mary Hudler, Jo Ann Wooten.

Adult: Edna Staley, Anne Staley, Dora Hayes, Ken Rollins, Robert Hayes.

Family: Anne Staley, Agnes Caudill, Gwyn Church, Virginia Brooks.

For many years after the merger, attendance at Church School far exceeded that at the 11'o'clock worship hour, but this is no longer true. We are proud to state that the sanctuary is frequently full to overflowing for the worship service; however, we are concerned about the lagging Sunday School attendance and hope to be able to improve it in the near future. We are also facing difficulties in securing attendants for the nursery. We have been unable recently to obtain a volunteer and efforts to hire someone have not materialized. At

present, mothers are alternating every Sunday. In addition to the nursery, we have eight classes meeting every week. These classes and their teachers are: Kindergarten: Martha Rash; Elementary A: Norma Collins and Mary Hester Eller; Elementary B: Elaine Mulholland; Junior Hi: Marolyn Lankford, substitute: Jo Ann Wooten; Senior Hi: Bill Tolbert, substitute: Lucille Vannoy; MAD (Mixed Adult Discussion): Walter Broyhill, Charles R. Wooten and Iva Dell Royal; Fellowship Class: C. C. Brooks, Jr. and Burl Lankford; Senior Adults: Edna Staley, substitutes: Agnes Caudill and Virginia Bumgarner. (Members of the Fidelis Class taught by Anne Staley are at present meeting with this class pending recovery of Mrs. Staley who had surgery sometime ago).

Vacation Bible School

Bible School has been conducted every summer as far back as anyone remembers. Although records were not preserved, it is recalled that Blanche Gaither served as director or coordinator for many years. Mary Edna Faw and Gayle Benton substituted for her for two sessions. Others who served in this capacity were Mae Hayes, Ginny McGuire, Walter Broyhill, Zedena Barker, Judy Foster, Betty Pierce, Jean Rash and Susan Euliss.

Some of those who taught classes and/or assisted: Virginia Brooks, Belva Tolbert, Norma Collins, Madge Fawcett, Frances Huffman, Mae Johnson, Lucy Marion, Van Caudill, Agnes Caudill, Kay Shaver, Bernice Rhoades, Vickie B. Dancy, Libby W. Caudill, Sandy Tolbert, Jean Bumgarner, Anne Staley, Baxter Bumgarner, Linda Higgins, Kenny Hayes, Steve Hayes, Ivie D. Royal, Virginia Owens, Linda Bumgarner, Marianne Bumgarner, Francis Bumgarner, Becky B. Faw, Carla Parks, Mary B. Johnson, Marie Handy, Kathy Church, Gwyn C. Wyatt, Neta Bumgarner, Ann Bumgarner, Dot Clark, Gloria Earnhardt, Mary H. Eller, Elaine Mulholland. Many parents and other individuals assisted with refreshments.

A special time for instruction in music and crafts was provided each year. Some of those who helped with music were Blanche Gaither, Janet Royal, Marianne Bumgarner, Dot Clark, and Becky B. Faw. For the past several years, craft projects and classes have been planned and supervised by Gayle Benton.

United Methodist Women

We are not sure of the exact date that the Ladies Aid Society of Friendship Church was organized, but we do know that it was in existence in 1932 and possibly before. It appears that Pansy Bumgarner may have been the first president. Some of the members were Mmes. Blanche Gaither, Annie Church, Neta Bumgarner, Lizzie Mary Gaither, Maggie Bumgarner, Maude Bumgarner, Elvira (Vira) Rash, Bessie Rash, and Lucy Rash (Marion). Lucy was about thirteen or fourteen at the time and she attended the meetings in order to drive her mother back and forth. Mrs. Vera Delp tells us that she became a member in 1937 or 1938.

The Ladies Aid as it was referred to, met in the evening in the homes of members. The fee for being a member, or the pledge as we know it today, was twenty-five cents per month. This figure gradually increased until in the '40's it got to be as much as fifty cents per month.

About this time the Ladies Aid became the Women's Society of Christian Service. Martha Eudaily, Veada Nichols, Maribel Elledge and perhaps others became official members. Other ladies in the church, Roxie Brooks, Virginia Gaither, Mary Lee Bumgarner, began working with this group. Their main goal was to raise funds to renovate the old church or build a new one.

They began to have suppers, craft sales and rummage sales. One of the first suppers was held in the old Gaither store building (still standing and in use). The men set up a stove and some work tables in the shed part of the building and the main part became the dining hall. The menu was baked ham, green peas, creamed potatoes, and a peach half with choice of cake or pie. The price was \$2.00.

Many of the ladies in the church had made items for sale and Newton Bumgarner and John (Baxter) Caudill were the auctioneers. John came as a guest, but when Newton got tired he agreed to help, and believe me, you have never really heard an auctioneer until you've heard John Caudill!

After paying all the expenses, the remembered figure from this sale was \$120.00.

Later on a big rummage sale was held in the building that is now Prevette's Men's Shop. The sale was held on a Saturday and those were the days when ladies wore hats on all occasions. Roxie Brooks was "tending the store" and of course, wearing her hat. During the day she began to get tired and rather warm so she took off her nice hat and laid it on a table. She was busy with a customer when a large, black lady came in and immediately spied an almost new hat. She picked it up, saying "This is the 'purtiest' hat in here and it's only a quarter." She put her quarter on the table, the hat on her head, but Roxie caught her by the arm as she went out the door, proudly wearing her new hat.

These are only a few instances of good clean fun and fellowship, as well as the promotion of God's love that existed among the women of old Friendship church.

Recently, when talking with Mae Church Johnson, she made the statement that her mother's (Aunt Annie B. Church) greatest dream was to see the women grow in Christian living and fill their full potential in the church. She, along with others, worked endlessly toward that goal.

There is no information regarding a ladies' organization at old Millers Creek church prior to the mid 1940's. At that time a Missionary Society was founded and monthly meetings were held until the consolidation of the churches.

Since the membership was so small (6 to 8 members), activities were limited. Showers were given for various events and collections were taken occasionally to help a person or family in need. The group enjoyed devotional programs, interesting discussions, "heart sisters" and Christian fellowship together.

Following the merger in 1952 the W.S.C.S. became one of the strongest organizations in the North Wilkesboro District. It would be impossible to accurately list all of the women's accomplishments. They continued to have bake sales, suppers, rummage sales and at one time operated alternately with Arbor Grove

and Union, the Methodist Service store (formerly Blue Ridge Service). The store was first located in what is now the Cricket-Millers Creek Water Association and later in the old Gaither store building. In the spring of 1973, the store was moved to the Eller Building on 10th Street in North Wilkesboro.

On Oct. 10, 1973, our Society along with Methodist women around the world, adopted the name, United Methodist Women. Along with the name change and upon the advice of the District Conference, our UMW broke into circles. Many thought that this was a mistake; that circles were not for our particular group and this proved to be the case. Our Unit as a whole was weakened, but continued to hold semi-monthly and quarterly meetings.

For several years the women furnished a hot lunch for a school child.

One year we provided two ushers, Gayle Collins Benton and Mary Edna Gaither Faw to the District Conference at Lake Junaluska.

We have twice been represented on the District level. Blanche Gaither and Sidney Johnston each served four years as a district executive officer (North Wilkesboro District).

Several years ago we participated in efforts to secure a van for Bethlehem Center with green stamps. This was a successful project - Lucy Gist from the center visited us and showed off the new van.

In 1976 the UMW published a cookbook which turned out to be a good money making project.

Much was done by the women toward furnishing the fellowship hall such as buying the stove, refrigerator, etc.

Since the merger of the two churches the following ladies have served as presidents of the UMW (perhaps others): Clara Eller Prevette, Blanche Gaither, Mae Hayes, Dora Hayes, Agnes Caudill, Gwyn Church Wyatt, Sidney Johnston, Virginia Brooks; Virginia Bumgarner, Dot Clark, Linda McKinney, Lucy Marion, Becky Woodie, Elaine Mulholland; Rita Cubert. Dot Clark is presently serving a second time

as president.

The Helping Hand Circle

by
Sidney Johnston

This circle was first organized under the name "Helping People Circle" but the name was changed to "Helping Hand Circle" after two or three meetings.

This was a small, but strong circle, never having more than twelve members at any one time. The officers who were elected at the time of organization remained in office throughout the life of the circle: Lucy Marion, president; Maribel Elledge, vice-president; Gladys Maxwell, secretary-treasurer (Gladys moved to The Methodist Home in Charlotte after about two years). Other members were Betty Nichols, Blanche Gaither, Lillian Rash, Bernice Rhoades, Marie Handy, Bessie Rash, Sidney Johnston, Linda Bumgarner, Virginia Brooks, Virginia Owens (rejoined the Mission Circle in 1979), Betty Greer and Evelyn Hayes (Although Evelyn was not a member of the UMW; not even a member of our church, she was an excellent circle member and everyone enjoyed her fellowship). Carol Triplett and Dawn Brown were members for a short while.

The circle supported the UMW unit with its pledges and attendance and by giving a portion of the funds raised from projects to the general UMW treasury. During the life of the circle much was accomplished, such as: three quilts and a coverlet were made and sold; for three consecutive years a meal was prepared and served to a graduating class reunion - this netted around \$200 each year; fruit baskets were prepared for shut-ins and elderly at Thanksgiving each year; a fair sum was contributed to a member of Millers Creek Baptist Church who was trying to raise funds for a family who was very much in need; flowers were placed in the church on a number of occasions honoring and remembering various people; each member of the circle as well as others were always remembered with flowers and food during illnesses; paramounts were placed in the church with funds from

the sale of the first quilt made; an arrangement of silk flowers was placed on the altar in memory of two members of the circle, Bessie Rash and Blanche Gaither.

The last quilt made by the circle was given to the president, Lucy Marion, in loving appreciation of her service. Following her death, March 8, 1982, the Helping Hand Circle along with the other two circles, was disbanded and the UMW again became one unit.

The Mission Circle

by

Mae R. Hayes

The first Mission Circle was organized in 1972 before the UMW was divided into circles the following year. Gloria Earnhardt was the first president with Linda McKinney, vice-president. The primary purpose of this group of ladies was to work together on crafts and projects for the annual bazaars. During 1973-74, some of the members joined The Helping Hands and in 1975 others joined The Fun Bugs.

In 1979 the Mission Circle was re-activated and continued until the circles were abolished in Oct. 1983. Mary Hester Eller and Carol Crane were the presidents during this period. This circle adhered to the rules set up by the annual conference of the UMW, supporting the unit in attendance and financial pledges.

Activities included work for the bazaar, visiting and remembering shut-ins, buying supplies for the church kitchen, renovating the basement apartment in the parsonage for the use of Duke students in the summer, providing racks for garbage cans, making booklets for Mother's and Father's Day, cleaning projects at the church, "adopting" a resident of a local rest home, etc.

The largest project undertaken by this circle was replacing the carpet on the steps and upstairs hall of the educational building. A dinner which was prepared for seventy persons from the Duke Endowment program, netted \$408.09 for the first contribution to the carpet fund. The remaining cost was raised by selling carpet to church members. The total cost was \$1132.85.

Members of this circle were Gayle Benton, Virginia Bumgarner, Agnes Caudill, Norma Collins, Carol Crane, Aurelia Delp, Mary H. Eller, Dora Hayes, Mae Hayes, Marolyn Lankford, Virginia Owens, Anne Staley, Alan Tolbert, Belva Tolbert, Jamie Tolbert, Nancy Williamson, and Dot Clark.

The Fun Bugs
by
Gayle Benton

This circle, organized 23 Feb. 1975 by a group of young women, was so named because they "found it fun to work together in Christian fellowship." Their primary reason for organizing was their desire to renovate and maintain the nursery. After cleaning and painting the room, purchasing a new carpet, replacing toys, etc., they alternated the task of keeping everything clean and providing necessary supplies.

They elected a group leader and secretary-treasurer each year. One member was responsible for the program and refreshments each month until April 1981 when Gayle Benton and Lucille Vannoy shared this responsibility. This plan was continued as long as the circle functioned.

Activities and projects included selling craft items at the annual turkey suppers at West High School, working for the Bazaars, helping a child who was ill, providing a baby layette for an expectant mother, contributing to the Baptismal Font in memory of Mrs. Annie Church, selling pocket calendars and recipe cards, etc.

An annual highlight was the "Chinese Auction" held at the home of Elaine Mulholland. Handmade crafts and baked items were auctioned.

A luncheon was prepared in June, 1981 especially for local teachers and aids.

A covered-dish dinner in the homes of members each Fall was a special fun time. They also enjoyed having "secret sisters" and Christmas parties when the identity of the "secret sisters" was revealed and everyone joined in playing "dirty bingo."

Members of this group were (*=moved out of community): *Eva Caudill, *Gwyn

*Carla Parks, *Pat Stevens, *Leslie Rainey, *Linda Becton, *Linda Higgins, *Linda Mercer, *Becky Woodie, *Sandy Wyatt, Zedena Barker, Pat Bryant, Kathy Church, Gloria Earnhardt, Linda Love, Elaine Mulholland, Jean Rash, Martha Rash, Pat Taylor, Lucille Vannoy, Gayle Benton, Rita Cubert, Judy Foster, and Wanda Hughes.

Mothers Day Out

With approval of the Administrative Board, this program was started in 1979 by Kathy Church, coordinator; Linda Love, Linda McKinney and Linda Becton. With the help of other parents, children were kept at the church one day each week from 8:30 'til 2:00. They brought their lunch and refreshments were provided from the fee paid by each mother leaving her child. Additional proceeds were deposited in the Fun Bugs treasury. This program was discontinued after 1980 when many of these children started attending play school or kindergarten.

Millers Creek United Methodist Women 1983-84

In the fall of 1983 it was decided that it would be to the best interest of the UMW if the circles were disbanded and the women's organization operated as one unit. In January, 1984 new officers were elected and installed, heart sisters were chosen, and things got under way for a successful year.

We have had two very good bake sales which provided funds for commercially cleaning the upholstery on the church pews as well as placing brass identification plaques on several pieces of furniture in the church.

Attendance has been good. We have had interesting programs including two guest speakers and a series of programs showing film strips on the early Methodist Church.

We have "adopted" a retired missionary at the Brooks-Howell home in Asheville, N. C., and plan to have her visit us sometime during 1985.

We participated in the MCOR program of filling our cardboard fishes with

loose change for one year.

Officers for 1984-1985: President: Dot Clark; Vice-President: Linda Bumgarner; Treasurer: Lucille Vannoy; Secretary: Norma Collins; Secretary of Program Resources: Wanda Hughes; Committee on Nominations: Sandi Wyatt, Sidney Johnston and Lillian Rash; Chairperson of Commission on Membership: Lillian Rash; Mission Coordinators - Christian Personhood: Zedena Barker; Supportive Community: Jean Rash; Christian Global Concerns: Mae Hayes; Social Involvement: Sidney Johnston.

(It has developed that Dot Clark will not be able to serve as president in 1985. Linda Bumgarner and Susan Allen will be serving as co-presidents during the coming year. Sandi Wyatt has moved away and Nancy Osborne has been appointed to replace her on the nominating committee).

United Methodist Men

The first official meeting of the Millers Creek United Methodist Men was held on February 23, 1956. Previous to this meeting several individuals met and worked hard toward this organization. There is no record of a previous Men's Club either in Millers Creek or Friendship churches. At this first meeting in 1956, officers were elected as follows: Jimmy Tolbert, president; Van Caudill, vice-president; Lawson Eller, secretary-treasurer; Robert Hayes, publicity chairman. It was decided that the club would meet on 4th Thursday evenings each month.

The meetings were a combination of devotions, fellowship and discussion concerning future needs. (Also planning sessions to accomplish these needs).

Activities revolved mostly around work parties for improvements on the buildings and grounds. All of the jobs the men felt they were capable of doing, they did quite successfully.

Although several very faithful members attended the meetings and work details, the Club eventually became inactive.

The exact date the Club was re-organized cannot be found. Although the last charter is dated October 20, 1977, it is known that the Men's Club was functioning prior to that date.

The present organization has its meetings with breakfast served on the first Sunday morning of each month at 8:00 A.M. The men volunteer for cooking and have found it difficult to ruin an egg. The meetings consist of short devotionals, a business session, breakfast and fellowship, and frequently a guest speaker from many different areas and occupations. The list of speakers is certainly not complete, but some of them are as follows: Mike Ashburn, District Attorney; Dr. Daniels, Wilkes Community College president; Marsh Lyall, County Superintendent of Schools; representatives from ADAPT; Coach and two football players from Wake Forest University; John Barber, County Accountant; and several others from other

church, civic or community organizations.

Each year a ladies day has been celebrated by having the wives or girlfriends for breakfast or taking them out for an evening meal.

The members decide on an amount to charge for breakfast and try to make it a figure that will produce a small profit to build a treasury for financing some of their projects. Portions of this money are used for donations to worthy causes or individuals as they may arise. New members or guests always eat free.

Some of the proceeds have been used for sponsoring church softball teams and Boy Scouts for summer camp as well as special needs in the community. Other things that time and money have been spent for are: Helped with the fence at West Wilkes High School in memory of Vance Owens; special offering for gift to Bishop Hunt on June 6, 1976; purchased and installed signs in driveway of our church; worked on picnic shelter; repairs to both church and parsonage; and several years of working on our lawn and shrubbery.

One large project that was organized and worked at for a long time was an activity program for young people on Saturdays. The men supervised fun and games for children and youth of our church and community. Each Saturday two of our Methodist Men met with and supervised play in our fellowship hall or outside when weather permitted.

Fund-raising projects included preparing and serving food at the 1979 Church Bazaar and hot dog and hamburger suppers.

Over the years our Methodist Men have been active in initiating new ideas and programs in our church as well as coming to the aid of other groups needing assistance.

Bill Tolbert

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

Existing records indicate that youth organizations were active in both the old churches for many years.

In 1933-34, the UMYF was called Epworth League. The following excerpts were taken from a local newspaper clipping "FRIENDSHIP CHURCH HAS GROWING LEAGUE - - Campaign for new members being waged; about 90 members enrolled. More enthusiasm is being displayed at Millers Creek than ever before..we're not growing in number alone. Our programs have been good and are getting better. If you want to hear a really original and happy program, come to Friendship M.W. Church each Sunday evening at 7:00. We would not forget to mention the stimulus for a great part of the interest taken by the pastor, Rev. E. P. Greene. He is a wide-awake man who has spent years in young peoples' work. We are proud of him. Come meet him. It would be worth your time."

The only known counselors at old Millers Creek were Mr. and Mrs. Van Caudill and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hayes. They provided transportation for several young people in the community every Sunday afternoon. When weather permitted they met outside for programs and discussions. Horseshoes, hide and seek, etc. were frequently enjoyed until dark.

Kenny Hayes represented our church and district in the Southeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 1962-63. At that time this Conference was made up of about ten states.

In 1964 the UMF prepared a room in the Parish House (old parsonage) for a library which was sponsored primarily by M. F. Bumgarner. Gayle Collins and Mary Edna Gaither assisted with stamping, listing, etc. Although it was short lived, many children and a few adults checked out books through September, 1966.

Excerpts from The North Wilkesboro District Methodist newsletter, Oct. 1, 1964 and from Conrad Alexander's column in the local newspaper are as follows:

"Forty to fifty young people re-dedicated their lives at an Interdenominational Youth Revival held at Millers Creek Methodist Church.

Inspired primarily by Rev. R. L. Clayton, but promoted by the youth of the church who enlisted aid of young people from other churches, the revival attracted participants from 27 churches, some outside Wilkes County.

The Host Youth "Pastor", Kenny Hayes, presided at the meetings. Miss Nancy Higgins of the Harmony Baptist Church led group singing each night. Special music was provided by local churches.

Monday night: Youth Choir of Pleasant Home Baptist sung. Tuesday a mixed chorus directed by Sam Osborne. Wednesday the Youth Choir from Union Methodist Church directed by Mrs. Mozelle Shumaker. Harmony Baptist Youth Choir directed by Ray Beshears, and on Friday the Welcome Baptist Youth Choir.

Guest Speakers: Monday: Travis Spaulding, Harmony Baptist and Marianne Bumgarner, Millers Creek Methodist; Tuesday: Ray Beshears, Harmony Baptist and A. G. Hayes, Arbor Grove Methodist; Wednesday: Beatrice Wellborn of Stony Fork Baptist and Hale Hayes, First Baptist, North Wilkesboro; Thursday: Bill Gambill, Union Methodist and Tony Orsbon, Pleasant Home Baptist; Friday: Sara Spicer, Millers Creek Baptist and Vaughn Hayes, Purlear Baptist.

The program began with a hayride to the mountains on Sunday afternoon.. weiner roast and a Vesper Service. Miss Silvia Rodrigues, a refugee from Cuba now living in Mount Airy, was the speaker.

Attendance the first night was 78...reached 150 by Friday. Refreshments were served each night except Friday by women of local churches followed by fellowship in the Parish House.

Registration was handled by Steve Hayes, Millers Creek Methodist; Joyce Nichols, Arbor Grove Methodist; Phyllis Eller, Hinshaw Baptist; Gail Howell, Millers Creek Baptist."

The revival rated an entire column featured in "Along the way" with Conrad Alexander in the local newspaper, The Journal Patriot.

It was heart-warming to see Hale Hayes reclining on the pulpit steps with one of the young people holding his songbook, etc. Hale had polio in 1953 and could "swallow-breathe" for short periods and thus stay out of the iron lung, rocking bed or chest respirator. He became a licensed minister. He died at age 29 on 18 July, 1970 and is buried in our church cemetery.

In 1979 the young people of our church hosted 125 youth and counselors from the District for a Youth Rally. Profit (\$50 to \$75) was donated to the Youth Service Fund which supports projects such as Camp Tekoa. (several of our young people from time to time attended Tekoa).

Among their many activities were Trick or Treat for UNICEF, selling light bulbs and license plates to purchase a movie projector, work on the picnic shelter and repairs to basketball court, caroling at Christmas, bake sales, car washes, hot dog and hamburger suppers, tubing down New River, bike trips, trip to Disney World, Duke University for Youth Day, beach trips, etc.

We are indebted to the pastors and leaders who devoted many hours to the UMYF through the years. Among them were Bill Tolbert, Jim Wyatt, C. C. Brooks, Jr., Wake Clark, Mr. and Mrs. James Faw, Mr. and Mrs. Avery Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Chip Bumgarner, Lucy Marion, Linda B. Howell, Mary Belle Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Collins, Mrs. Maribel Elledge, Mr. and Mrs. Baxter Bumgarner, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rash, Allie Wagoner, Alvan Caudill, Betty Pierce, Vickie Bryan and the present counselors, Roger and Sandi Chamberlain.

The Play School

A kindergarten class was started in our church around 1971 by Linda Love and Linda McKinney. This class was discontinued when kindergarten began in the public schools.

In September, 1974 the present Play School began with an enrollment of ten three year olds and twelve four year olds. The teachers were Linda Becton and Bonnie Godbey. This Play School, governed by a committee of church members is still providing a much needed service which is available not only to members of the church but to the community as well. It is a self-supporting program which gives children the closeness of church which they might not otherwise have an opportunity to experience.

The children learn many valuable skills through play, planned activities and individual attention which better prepares them for public kindergarten. The well organized school is under the capable direction of Elaine Mulholland, assisted by Pat Taylor. It is estimated that approximately 400 children have "graduated" from this Play School to date.

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During the late fifties and early sixties, there were several little boys about the same age in our church. About 1962-63 the mothers decided that they needed a special time to learn and play together. This, of course, was prior to the play schools we know today and before kindergarten was included in the public school system. The venture was so successful that we decided it was worthy of inclusion in this history.

The mothers involved (Eleanor Clayton, Sidney Johnston, Virginia Brooks, Mary Hester Eller and Mae Hayes) alternated having the seven boys in their homes one afternoon each week until they were old enough for school. They provided supervised activities, small craft projects, read stories, and enjoyed playing together. It proved to be a good experience for the little boys and for their mothers as well.

Music and the Choir

Music has always been an integral part of Methodism and Friendship and Millers Creek churches were no exception. Although the early churches did not have organized choirs, those who wished to participate, sat in the "Amen Corner" (benches in the front left or right corner of the sanctuary) and raised their voices together in praise and thanksgiving. There has always been talented singers and musicians in the churches.

During the years prior to the merger of the two churches, we are told that music directors at Friendship were Thomas H. Cole, Pansy Bumgarner, Blanche Gaither and Newton Bumgarner. Pianist included Ivie Dean Royal, Doris Bumgarner, C. C. Brooks, Jr., Kay Nichols, Marianne Bumgarner and no doubt others. Mrs. Joe Owings remembers beautiful duets sung by Iris Bumgarner and Virginia Reeves. She also recalls a "singing school" taught by Charles Jones of Jonesville, N. C.

We are advised that Hattie Gaither who was a charter member of old Millers Creek church, and her daughters, Nell and Louise, played the organ there. We have been unable to obtain further information relative to music in this church until about 1939 at which time singing was being led by Balmer Hayes accompanied on the organ by his wife, Dora. When the organ was replaced with a piano music was provided by Agnes Caudill and Doris Tulbert.

A humorous incident occurred at Millers Creek one Sunday in the summer of 1951 when the young sons of Robert and Mae Hayes, Kenny age 4 and Steve 3, were standing between their parents attentatively watching Balmer as he led the singing of a hymn. Not to be excluded, the little boys joined in with something about "a doggie in the doghouse," no doubt their version of "How Much is the Doggie in the Window?" Trying to keep a straight face, Balmer was overcome with laughter, lost his place, and the singing halted with everyone having a good laugh. Of course, the boys could not understand what was so funny.

In 1952 the two church congregations united and assembled together in the Millers Creek School facility while the new building was under construction. The auditorium of the school rang with the sound of the combined church voices under the direction of Balmer Hayes with Jack Howard, school music teacher, assisting.

When the congregation moved into the new building, the choir was organized by the pastor's wife, Libby A. Caudill. With her lovely voice and contagious exuberance, Libby captured the hearts of the choir members and the congregation. Beautiful robes were purchased and the choir blossomed under Libby's tutelage.

The choir has continued to be an enthusiastic and compatible group of outstanding singers. Through their years together they have been invited to sing for many functions and have made several trips in and out of the county. A number of times they sang at or exchanged pulpits with the black Methodist congregations in Wilkesboro. They participated in the Billy Graham Crusade when it was in North Wilkesboro, in services presented at the Triad Methodist Home in Winston-Salem, and in local rest homes. They have willingly given of their time and talent when called upon to provide music for revivals, funerals, Boy Scout programs and other church and community events.

Many joyous and humorous events have been enjoyed at cook-outs, watermelon and ice cream feasts, and on trips where they were invited to sing and join the delicious meals and Christian fellowship. One incident remembered by the choir was the time the group froze when one of the tenors, Sam Osborne, failed to come in on his note when they were singing "Let Mt. Zion Rejoice" at Crews Methodist Church in Winston-Salem. Sam rescued his lost note and although it may not have been funny at the mement, everyone laughed about it later. One member of the choir, L. H. (Nick) Collins could always be depended upon to provide the impetus for a bit of levity now and the. The most likely target and the best humored recipient of his wit was Balmer Hayes.

"Musical notes" lifted from Church Bulletins, etc. through the years inspired the following:

How many of us recall - that the church chimes first rang out in 1969? The piano Blanche Gaither donated to the church? The incident of the "lost" piano (a group of men who shall remain nameless, were moving a piano which had belonged to old Millers Creek to the new church and it slid out of a pick-up truck when they turned onto highway 421 from old 60)? That a youth choir was organized under the direction of Nick Collins in 1971? That Gwyn Church and Gloria Earnhardt directed a youth choir with Denise Chamberlain as their pianist in 1974? (More recent youth choirs have been directed by Elaine Mulholland and Rebecca B. Faw). The West High School Chorus directed by Vernon Mitchell sang during a worship service? That Jean Tolbert started a fund for a new organ before she moved to Charlotte? That Ruth and Ken Rollins, former members, started a fund for a new piano with a donation of \$100? That Wake Clark and Bonnie Godbey's mother donated \$25.00 each for the purchase of material for youth choir robes - the Mission Circle furnished the remaining fabric and made the robes (which are at present being worn every Sunday by the acolytes)? That the choir learned and sang an anthem entitled "Try His Way" which was composed by Tom Williamson's uncle, W. C. Valentine of Suffolk, Va.? That "The New Wine Singers" from Charlotte sang in our church on 27 January 1978 under the direction of Dr. Bill Dailey, associate professor of voice at UNC at Charlotte? (He was accompanied on the piano by his wife, Eleanor, and his son, Bruce, on the drums. One of our original members, Gary Tolbert, was a singer in that group).

The May, 1980 newsletter was dedicated to the choir members, pianist, organist, and their leader, Dot Clark. The following excerpts were taken from that newsletter: "In sincere appreciation of their fine music we have come to enjoy every Sunday in worship service and other special occasions. They unself-

ishly give of their talents to sing to the Glory of God by being dependable and dedicated in attending choir practice every Wednesday night and being at all performances. In the last year new choir robes have been purchased which has helped in the appearance, and a new piano which has helped greatly in the quality of their music. The choir was awarded the Citizenship Award of the Week by the W. K. B. C. Radio Station for their unselfish, dedicated service to God, the church and their community. In asking what makes their music so beautiful they reply they sing for the pure joy of singing praises to God. Requests are always appreciated and they try to sing and play any song anyone asks for. An invitation is always open to anyone interested in joining the choir and new members are always welcome."

The following people have been responsible for the music program since the union of the churches: Choir Directors: Balmer Hayes, Jack Howard, Libby A. Caudill, Claude Jarrett, Bill Robinson, Gene Ellis, Sam Osborne, Jean Tolbert, Nancy Delp, and Dot Clark. Pianists and Organists: Dora Hayes, Blanche Gaither, Christine Foster Myers, Kay Nichols Hurley, Mary Jane Triplett, Janet Royal Kilby, Ruth Rollins, Phyllis Clark Crews, Rebecca B. Faw, Brenda K. Stone, and Rebecca Faw.

The present choir (1984) is under the direction of Dot Clark with Elaine Mulholland as her assistant; Brenda Stone, organist; Rebecca Faw, pianist.

Sopranos: Linda E. Bumgarner, Norma Collins, Dora Hayes, Marolyn Lankford, Jamie Tolbert, and Lucille Vannoy.

Altos: Virginia Bumgarner, Agnes Caudill, Elaine Mulholland, Andrea Stone.

Tenors: Steve Faw, Matthew Johnson, Ed Ross, Mac Bryan.

Basses: C. C. Brooks, Jr., Mark Brooks, Wake Clark, and Balmer Hayes.

Norma C. Collins

The Boy Scouts

Since 1945 Boy Scouts has been an integral part of the Millers Creek community. The first troop was sponsored by Millers Creek School. The first leaders were from Millers Creek and Friendship Methodist Churches. The first troop was Millers Creek Troop 99. J. Van Caudill, Rev. J.L.A. Bumgarner, and N. W. Bumgarner were the first three committee members for Troop 99. Carl Church, T. C. Snider, Cyrus Faw, C. Y. Dellinger, Robert Kerley, Bill Amberson, Joe Owings, Jack Wagner, Ira Dancy, and Lester Johnson were Scoutmasters of Old Troop 99. Harold Dancy, Matthew Johnson, Morris Billings, and Johnny Idol were at least some of the Eagle Scouts from this troop.

In 1967 the Troop number was changed to 399 and remains that now. Wm. Q. Bumgarner, Alvan Caudill, and Burl Lankford have been scoutmasters of Troop 399. Wm. Q. Bumgarner served from 1967-68. From 1968-1972 Alvan Caudill was Scoutmaster; in 1973 Burl Lankford became Scoutmaster and is still serving.

Millers Creek Methodist Church became the sponsoring institution in the 1960's and is still sponsoring the troop. Troop 399 is one of the most active troops in the Wilkes District of the Boy Scouts of America, Old Hickory Council. We have had a total of 40 Eagle Scouts to date, they are: Tommy Caudill, Mike Owens, Larry Vannoy, Jeff Reeves, Mack Lankford, Rickey Lankford, Randy Lankford, Roy Dancy, Bill Staley, Danny Minton, Tony Marion, Jeff Miller, Kirk Church, Gary Greer, Terry Call, Eddie Johnston, Mark Canter, Ronnie Treadaway, David Greer, Mike Roe, Jeff Shew, Neil Walsh, Keith Lankford, Randy Laws, David Roe, Lanny Church, Roy Call, Eric Golds, Mike Greene, Ken Sebastian, Mark Boone, Brent Triplett, Danny Roe, Arthur Lankford, Steven Roe, Greene Shepherd, John Mulholland, James Williams, Scott Elliott, and Kevin Blackburn.

Not only does Millers Creek United Methodist Church sponsor the troop, but they also provide a place for our meetings each week. The troop has a bus which

was purchased by the troop but is registered in the church's name.

Ed Bumgarner, Institutional Representative, has been a guiding factor in the success of Troop 399. He has served in this capacity for many years and has over the years helped to make the troop self-supporting. He holds The Silver Beaver, the highest award the Boy Scouts of America can give.

Not only has Troop 399 had many fine Scoutmasters, but also other men have worked very hard. Clate Reeves was an Assistant Scoutmaster for several years beginning in 1969. At the present time Gerald Lankford and Ed Mulholland are ably serving the troop as assistant Scoutmasters. From 1967-84 Tom Vannoy was treasurer of Troop 399. Charles Wooten now holds this position in the troop.

Millers Creek United Methodist Church serves not only the boys who are members of our church but also boys from all aspects of the community life. The church is a shining example of being there for all people of our area. We in Troop 399 would like to say a special "Thank You" to Millers Creek United Methodist Church!

Burl Lankford
Scoutmaster, Troop 399

The church feels that sponsoring the Scouts is a privilege. We appreciate their participation in the life of the church and the many services they perform for the church.

The Cub Scout Pack

The first Cub Scout Pack sponsored by this church was founded in the early or mid 1950's. The first Cubmaster was Ira Dancy and A. E. (Ed) Wagoner was the assistant Cubmaster. Mrs. Bill Link, Mary Belle Johnson and Margaret Bumgarner were Den Mothers. Bobby Bumgarner and Ronnie Dancy were Den Chiefs. This Pack was very active in County and District activities for a number of years. Some of the adults responsible for or assisting with this program were Dr. and Mrs. James I. Bumgarner, C. M. Brown, Sam Osborne, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wagoner and Mr. and Mrs. James Faw.

The present Pack consisting of 17 boys is headed by Mrs. Ellen Rhyne, Cubmaster, who also serves as a Den Leader. Martha Nelson and Sandra Ellis are also Den Leaders. Plans are underway for a Webelos group which will begin next month with Allen Queen as leader.

The leaders have issued an invitation to all boys in the community between the ages of 8-10 to join them in this family oriented program.

Girl Scouting

Millers Creek United Methodist Church is the center for Girl Scouting in this area. Meeting on Monday night there are Brownies and Daisy Scouts under the direction of Linda Quinn and Susie Queen. On Thursday night there are Brownies under the direction of Vickie Church and Susan Euliss. There are two junior troops under the direction of Madeline Broyhill, Margaret Lewis, Gloria Sarson and Linda Quinn. We also have a Cadet Troop under the direction of Vickie Call.

By opening its doors, Millers Creek United Methodist Church has helped Girl Scouting to grow in the Millers Creek area.

Susan Euliss

P.S. Pat Stevens and Sandra Wyatt were among the first leaders of the Brownies several years ago.

From Our Children

The Rev. James McKinney was the first minister in our church to set aside a few minutes during the 11:00 o'clock worship service for a children's "sermon." The young children enjoy marching down the aisles and gathering with the preacher in front of the altar. It has become an enjoyable event for young and old alike. In addition to the valuable lesson for the children and their joy at being included in the service, their responses are sometimes priceless. In trying to recall some of these incidents, memory fails; however we have reconstructed a few replies to questions asked by the minister - the wording may not be exactly the same, but the meaning is intact.

One morning, Rev. Rainey was talking to the children about the need for sunshine and rain and when he asked what rain is, his little daughter, Salem, quickly replied "Jesus is taking a shower!"

Again the same topic was being discussed and the minister asked what would happen if we didn't have sunshine and rain. The children answered that the grass, flowers and plants couldn't grow without the sun and rain and one child stated that we wouldn't have any food..."We could eat baloney," piped James Johnson, son of Matt and Becky.

The minister was talking about having guests and asked the children what they would do if Jesus came to dinner...Salem Rainey answered, "I'd take him to McDonald's!"

The following incidents came from Elaine Mulholland, teacher in the play school, who states that when working with pre-school age children you learn very quickly that they take everything you say literally.

After the Thanksgiving holidays one year she asked the children where they ate Thanksgiving dinner. Most of them answered that they ate at grandma's or some other relative's. When she came to one young man, he replied in a long, slow drawl, "...at the table."

One Christmas when Santa Claus made his visit to our playschool, one little boy climbed up on his lap, very eager to tell what he wanted for Christmas. In reply to Santa's question, he replied, "A thousand guns and a thousand bullets!" Santa asked what he was going to do with all those guns and bullets and the youngster replied, "I'm gonna shoot me a reindeer!"

When something special is going to happen in one of our student's family, we have them share with the other children what this is going to be. One young lady's mother was expecting a new baby. When she was asked what she hoped it would be, she replied, "White!"

This came from our parsonage family. One night, Matt was unhappy about going to sleep alone in his room. In trying to reassure him, his father told him that he wasn't alone; that God was always with him. "No, he's not..he's in Lincolnton!" was Matt's quick reply. (The Allens had recently moved to Millers Creek from Lincolnton, N. C.)

Memories of Pastors Prior to 1952

(Believed to have been compiled by M. F. Bumgarner)

Jonah J. Rhyne and his wife lived part of their tenure in the home of John W. Nichols who gave his "Big House" for their home. This pastor was a so-called "dutchman" who pronounced his v's like w's. He would say, in quoting a certain Bible verse: "I will pay my vows unto the Lord." It is said that Rev. Rhyne and another pastor were on their way to some conference, riding together in a buggy when their horse ran away downhill. The other preacher saw Rev. Rhyne spitting out his tobacco quite hurriedly as they seemed near to being thrown out of the buggy and killed. After it was all over, this preacher asked Rhyne why he did that. His reply was, "I didn't want to go to heaven with a chew of tobacco in my mouth."

The circuit had no parsonage in the early days. Most of the preachers lived at their homes and walked or drove back and forth to their appointments. J. M. Heath brought his family to the charge and lived in a rented house. He had three boys old enough to do farm work, Luther, Wood and Roy. They did considerable farming and other work in the community. The second church building was erected during his tenure as pastor.

D. S. Richardson held a week of revival meetings at Friendship Church. It was a very quiet meeting with only one profession of faith. Some of the folks may have considered it a failure. It was my brother Jim who was converted and it was worth all the world to him. He died a few months later.

J. L. Stephenson lived in the village of Moravian Falls where there was a good school, and walked to his appointments. There was a Sunday when he walked to Friendship and found no one there for the eleven o'clock service. He started down the road toward home and met several of the folks going to church. He informed them that the hour for preaching had passed and kept on going. They

came on time after that.

Joe Winkler lived at the old Winkler home near Eshcol church. He laid much stress on revivals. He told of one instance when he and about a dozen others prayed all night for a revival. At the service next day each one testified that he prayed all night and at dawn was filled with the Holy Spirit and had a most glorious experience.

Hamp Patterson lived in Yadkin County and drove a horse and buggy to his appointments. One night after a Saturday Quarterly Conference, he and Elder Dolly Johnson were staying at the home of Rev. J. L. Bumgarner. Incidentally, the two preachers were comparing their hats when Johnson noticed that Patterson's head was much larger than his. He remarked, "You must have the big-head." "Yes," replied Patterson, "I've got it bad."

Jesse Moore was a young, unmarried man. But he was tough and determined to carry on his work. My most vivid impression of him was at one appointment at Oak Grove church. The church was new and a heater had not been put in though the weather was cold. But the shivering pastor went right ahead and preached a fair sermon to a shivering congregation.

C. M. Warden lived at Yadkinville and was for some years editor of The Yadkin Ripple. His sermons were climatic...he would preach along in a well modulated voice until he had built up a good line of thought. Then he would raise his voice, pound his fist on the pulpit desk and drive home his point. He gave one incident of the management of his children...and his wife too, perhaps. It was a rainy day and rather cold and Johnny did not want to go to school. His mother took his part and objected to his going, although he was warmly clothed and in no danger of exposure. Dad went out into the yard, brought in a good peachtree switch and said, "Johnny is going to school." He went and made a good record of which his parents were proud.

David J. White lived in the Newcastle community of Wilkes County. He had a farm and a little store and made his living at home. It was a farm where an earlier pastor, John M. Wellborn, lived. A rather large tree stood on the premises, a tree that Wellborn once brought home as a riding switch. He stuck the switch into the ground and it grew and made this tree.

Rev. White as a small man. He called himself "The Boy Preacher." He was clear and simple in his sermons and was a great pastor and visitor. He knew his people and they knew him as one of themselves. He exchanged pulpits with the Baptists in revivals and great revivals were the result.

At one time Rev. White and Charley Bumgarner were on their way with horse and buggy to a district conference in Ashe County when they came to a ford in New River. The water was somewhat above normal, but they decided they could ford it. As they proceeded deeper and deeper into the river and the water was running into the buggy bed, they set their feet up on the dashboard to keep them from getting wet. As the water became deeper Rev. White who was driving became excited, dropped his lines and his feet into the water, threw up his hands and exclaimed, "Lord help us!" The Lord did help, and they came safely out on the other side of the river.

Luther Maness was a young preacher who could not do much preaching himself but had a genius for getting it done. He brought his brother, Troy Maness here for a revival. It proved to be one of the landmarks in the history of Friendship church and the community. Many people were converted and added to the church.

J. M. Wall was a successful traveling salesman before entering the ministry, but sacrificed his career as salesman for what he conceived to be his duty. He was a faithful pastor and served also as district superintendent.

F. A. L. Clark was a consecrated pastor. He told of the efforts of the bishop to get his preachers to abstain from the use of tobacco in compliance

with the rules of The Discipline. "I want to see," said the bishop, "that all the men coming into the conference observe this rule and after awhile we will have a conference of preachers with clean mouths."

Ellis P. Green was a man of much energy. His District Superintendent called him a builder. He made a special effort to get folk into the habit of going to church. He put a placard by the highway in front of Friendship Church. It was the month of March and the placard contained the slogan, "March to church in March."

J. R. Short was a man of much energy also, and was called a builder. Besides taking care of his circuit, he did much of the work in the parsonage for his invalid wife, and made some improvement on the parsonage building.

J. R. Bowman was a quiet, retiring sort of preacher, but scholarly and efficient in the pulpit. The district superintendent said he could write the best letter of any pastor in the district. As an introduction to the offering at each service, he would quote: "Not what we give, but what we share; for the gift without the giver is bare."

Daniel D. Sain was a very young preacher, a student in Lenoir-Rhyne College. When he entered the pulpit, he would preface the service with the quotation: "The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him."

J. L. A. Bumgarner and S. N. Bumgarner were the two ordained pastors who grew up in Friendship Church, were licensed to preach by it, and served it as pastors for a number of years. Both were favorably known among their own people and were successful pastors. J.L.A. served as pastor of Friendship longer than any other. His long and favorable work in the county of his birth won for him the title "Bishop of Wilkes."

Memories of Pastors 1952-1984

by

Sidney B. Johnston

C. Jack Caudill, our pastor during the merger and building program, stayed with us until June, 1955. We shall always remember Jack and Libby with much love and gratitude.

Rodney Yates came to us in 1955 as a young, inexperienced minister. He and his wife had one child when they joined us and a baby was born before they left. He did not stay a full year, leaving just before conference. He was a friendly person, showing a great deal of potential.

Brown McKinney was with us for a few months, filling in between Yates and Grant. He was a very quiet and sincere person. No one seems to have had any objections to him, but he really was not too well known on the charge. Apparently he had the basis for a good Methodist preacher.

C. L. Grant came to us in 1956. Rev. Grant was a large, middle-aged, gray haired man. It might be said that his name implied his personality because he was the strong forward type, sure of himself and his intentions. Upon his arrival he immediately requested quite a few changes in the old parsonage. He was very interested in seeing the church grow in membership as well as spiritually. Quite a few young children were taken into the church that year. His wife was not well and passed away soon after they left the Millers Creek charge. He must have thought well of the folk here because he returned on several occasions bringing with him his new bride.

Robert (Bob) Russell began his first assignment with us in 1957. He was a very likable young man, full of enthusiasm and new ideas. He set up bachelor's quarters in the old parsonage and settled down to work. He was very outgoing, easy to talk with and got along well with his congregations. It was not an easy

time for him because we were struggling with a fairly large financial burden. But he handled things well and stayed to see the note burning and the new church dedicated. He was exposed to a great deal of experience in administration as well as some firsts. He christened his first baby, Wm. E. (Eddie) Johnston at Millers Creek and conducted his first funeral here. But probably his best experience was meeting and falling in love with a local girl. He met Jean Eller (excellent material for a Methodist minister's wife) from the Arbor Grove community. They were married about the middle of his stay on the Millers Creek charge and set up housekeeping in the old parsonage. They still return occasionally with their two children, to visit in the community.

R. L. Clayton, Jr. (Larry), his wife Eleanor and their two sons became our parsonage family in 1961. The Claytons set up residency in the old parsonage but were privileged to be the first family to live in the new one. They moved sometime during their second year and a third son also joined the family.

Larry was an extremely well educated man, speaking several languages fluently. He was very interested in alcoholics, those confined in prison and the "down-trodden" in general. On many Sunday mornings a whole pew would be filled with inmates from the county jail that Larry had picked up or made arrangements for their transportation. As would be expected, he received some criticism but in general he accomplished a great deal of lasting good for the church and community. We are told that after he left Millers Creek, he discontinued his pulpit ministry and is now devoting full time to Alcoholic Anonymous and other civic agencies.

Guy Godfrey came to our church under unusual circumstances...the pastor who had been assigned to Millers Creek did not see fit to come, and the person conference sent us, we did not see fit to accept. Guy was living with his grandmother and working in a mill, but he had let conference know of his desire to become a minister. He said he had spent many hours praying that God would show

him some way that he could further his education and become a Methodist preacher. So, we needed a pastor and Guy was willing to fulfill our needs. He was very energetic and full of ambition. He spent his full year here attending school at Duke University. During that time he took himself a wife and they moved into the parsonage.

One outstanding characteristic about him was that no matter where he went, he always carried his Bible. Reliable information has it that he has become an outstanding preacher.

Keith Howell began his appointment with us in June, 1967. He was a handsome young man in his late twenties with a pretty little wife, Jerry and a beautiful eighteen month old daughter, Melissa. A baby son, Keith Andrew, came along when they had been with us about two years.

Keith was very enthusiastic and energetic, possessing a charisma that was a proven asset in his efforts to further God's Kingdom. He brought to our church an event known as a Lay Witness Mission. This resulted in lay folk from two or three different states coming into our community to witness for Jesus Christ. It was a very meaningful experience and many people found Christ and joined the church during the mission and at other times while he was with us. He had a slogan, "God Loves You and I Love You." As might be expected, some individuals were critical of him, but on a whole he was very well liked in the church and made quite a "hit" in the community and with other denominations.

James L. McKinney (Jim), his wife Linda and children, Steve, Charles and Rebecca became the parsonage family in June, 1970. They were very well liked in the church and community. Jim was a good preacher and an excellent pastor. He done a lot of counseling with anyone having problems and was always on hand when a family needed help. The men say he was an excellent wood-chopper as well as a good mechanic and farm hand. It could well be said that he was a man of many talents as well as a dedicated man of God. Although it had always

been the intention of the church to construct a fellowship hall, Jim McKinney really got the ball rolling and the construction was completed before he left.

Charles Stevens and wife, Patricia (Pat) and their three daughters, Vickie, Heather and Rebecca began their appointment with us in June, 1970. Charles was a large, fun loving, football player. He was active in community affairs and was a volunteer fireman. He related well with the young people and children. One never knew what might come up in the pulpit on Sunday morning as he was a great doer of magic and used many different items (potatoes, little toy trucks, etc.) to demonstrate his points.

The family returned two or three years ago for a Homecoming Day service and Charles delivered the 11 00 o'clock message. He showed outstanding improvement in his preaching.

Steven K. Rainey and his wife, Leslie, joined us in June, 1979. They came as a family of two and left as a family of four. Salem and Joseph came along during their stay at Millers Creek. Steve was a young man just starting out, having served as Associate Pastor at the First Methodist Church in North Wilkesboro before coming to Millers Creek. He was a great lover of sports thus making a big hit with the youth as well as being very popular with the young married folk. He probably added more people to our church roll than any other pastor. He was very concerned with the welfare of his congregation; always willing to lend a helping hand. One unique characteristic was his excellent ability to remember names - he knew the names of new babies before they were old enough to attend church!

Rev. Ron Allen, his wife Susan and son, Matthew became our parsonage family in June, 1984. Although they have been with us only a short time, they are very well liked. Ron brings some very inspiring messages as well as being an excellent pastor to his congregation.

The Bell

The history committee has been unable to determine the exact age of the bell that rings every Sunday morning in our belfry. It appears that it is the same bell which was used in the Friendship Church which was destroyed by fire in 1919. It was then transferred to the next Friendship Church which was dismantled to make room for our present building. Some of our young (85+) folk are convinced that this is correct.

Saying has it that Linville K. Rash (grandfather of Jack Rash), though not an ardent church goer, once made the statement that he hoped he would never have to live where he could not hear the chimes of the church bell, and he didn't. Linville lived out his life in a little house just back of Jack's home in sight and sound of the church. He died in 1922.

Church bells were at one time very important fixtures of the community. When a member of a particular church died a family member was sent immediately to ring the bell. For an elderly person the bell rang for a long period; middle aged, a shorter period; for a child or infant, only briefly. This served two purposes; letting people know there had been a death in the community and summoning the men to gather at the church for the grave digging. No job was ever so important that it could not be left unfinished when a grave needed to be dug. The last act of kindness for a friend and neighbor was to help dig his grave.

Our bell has a disposition of its own and if its ringer does not understand its moods, it can be very cantankerous - it will turn completely over and then a real problem is created. Robert Hayes and Alvan Caudill can vouch for this. Once when it turned upside down, Robert and Van Caudill had to go all the way into the belfry to right it and Alvan went along to observe.

Many have accepted the responsibility of ringing the bell through the years. M. F. Bumgarner performed the task (or privilege) as long as he was physically able.

Then Rell Caudill and Nat Tolbert took on the job. While Rell was the ringer, it was such a treat for some of the little boys (young men of our church today) to go with him and assist by swinging on the rope. They had fun and at the same time learned the method of getting the job done without turning the bell all the way over!

For the past several years Robert Hayes has faithfully performed this service. During the past year, Robert took on an apprentice, Ed Benton, and Ed's young son, Phillip, is learning to "pull his weight." The Benton men and our bell seem to be getting along very well. Let's trust that this will continue and that the bell of Millers Creek United Methodist Church will ring out in our little village for years to come.

A Tribute to Our Oldest Member

We would like to devote a few words in tribute to the oldest member of our church today, Mrs. Cilla Rhoades Brooks, the daughter of James A. and Mary Bumgarner Rhoades, and the widow of Claude C. Brooks, Sr., who died in 1984.

As a young lady she attended a business school in Danville, Va. and worked for a while in Winston-Salem. She became a member of Oak Grove Methodist Church at an early age and remained one of the last few faithful members until its dissolution. She then moved her membership to the old Friendship Methodist Church (now Millers Creek United Methodist Church).

During their marriage of over sixty-two years, Mr. and Mrs. Brooks became the parents of eight children, two of whom died in infancy. The six who reached adulthood and are living today include Edith Chamblee, Fern Hunter, Dorothy McCallahan, Anne Smith, Lillian Rash, and C. C. Brooks, Jr. Two of these children, Lillian and C. C., and a sister, Maribel Elledge are active members of this church.

Mrs. Brooks has always been a quiet, unassuming, gentle woman who has worked hard in garden, field and home. She has always loved her family dearly, quietly sacrificing, both materially and emotionally for their well-being.

A small, pretty lady, Mrs. Brooks always has a smile for everyone and is loved by all who are privileged to know her. Although she is now 92 years of age and a partial shut-in, she manages to come to church occasionally.

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX AExcerpts from The Wilkesboro Circuit 1880-1895

In April, 1971 it was my privilege to abstract pertinent data from a box of loose papers which had belonged to Thomas Farr Bumgarner, the son of Henry M. and Mira Wilcox Bumgarner of the Crossroads community. He was a faithful member of Arbor Grove Methodist Church, a licensed Exhorter, and for many years secretary of The Wilkesboro Circuit of the Statesville District of The Methodist Church. Churches included during this period on this circuit were Arbor Grove, Eschol, Lovely Grove, Tumbling Shoals, Sugar Grove (sometimes written Sugar Cove), Friendship, and Union Chapel. Most of Mr. Bumgarner's papers were reports of local preachers and minutes of quarterly conferences. Abbreviations used in these records: P.E. - Presiding Elder; P.C. - Preacher in Charge; L.P. - Licensed Preacher; Exr. or Ext. - Exhorter; C.L. Class Leader; Q.C. - Quarterly Conference; Sec. - Secretary; Bro. - Brother; Chm. - Chairman; Ct. - Circuit; St. - Steward; S.S. - Sunday School. Spelling has not been changed in the excerpts below.

19 Apr. 1880, minutes 1st Q.C. at Friendship Church. J. Cole, Chm.; J. Wright, Sec., I. N. Hayes, L.P.; J. L. Bumgarner, Ext.; J. W. Nichols, G. W. Bumgarner and W. K. Rash, CL's; A. G. Gaither, Trustee; J. Wright, Rec. St.

6 Mar. 1881, minutes 1st Q.C. at Friendship. Rev. J. M. Welborn, P.E. in the chair. Conference members present: J. Cole, I. N. Hays, Robt. Bungan, Alx. G. Gaither, James L. Bumgarner, Geo. Bumgarner, John W. Nichols, Mrs. Ann Gaither, Mrs. Pheba Bumgarner. I. N. Hays, Sec. Next QC at Sugar Cove on 21 & 22 May. Other Business: Bro. James L. Bumgarner and Sister M. Gaither appointed committee to solicit contributions for the poor.

(item not dated - appears to be in 1882) Friendship Class recommends James L. Bumgarner to obtain License to Preach.

25 Nov. 1882, 4th Q.C., Friendship. Rev. J. M. Welbon, P.E. in the chair. J. Cole, P.C.; others present: D. J. Bingham, Jas. L. Bumgarner, George Bumgarner, J. W. Nichols, T. F. Bumgarner, J. E. Pierce, Phoebe Bumgarner, Bro. Joseph Wright, Sec. Old original board continued with addition of H. M. Bumgarner, Mary R. Wright, J. W. Milam. D. A. Bingham, J. L. Bumgarner, J. E. Pierce, Exhorters (no punctuation between Exhorters and next two names) J. A. Cole, E. J. Forkner. Next meeting at Lovily grove.

7 July 1883, 2nd QC at Arbor. Rev. J. M. Welborn, P.E., in the chair; J. N. Barker, P.C. Others present: J. W. Nichols, H. M. Bumgarner, T. F. Bumgarner, A. B. Bumgarner, Elijah Bowlins, W. J. Holbrook, J. Cole, J. E. Pierce, J. W. Hays, G. W. Bumgarner, A. E. Gaither, S. A. Church. D. A. Bingham, Sec. Elijah Bowlins in

place of J. Shepherd (this entry not explained). Next meeting Union Chapel.

23 Jan. 1886 Report of Rev. J.L. Bumgarner, LP, to 2nd QC at Eschol Church (report not given).

3 Apr. 1886 QC at Friendship Church. Rev. J. E. Pierce appointed H. M. Bumgarner to secure a deed to Tumbling Sholes Church proper(ty). Attention called to committee on parsonages, signed by J. M. Welborn, P.E. and T. F. Bumgarner, Sec. Rev. J. M. Welborn, P.E., in the chair. Others present: J. L. Bumgarner, J. E. Pierce, J. W. Nichols, G. W. Bumgarner, H. M. Bumgarner, T. H. (or L. H.) Cole, A. B. Bumgarner, D. A. Bingham, Mahuld. Bingham, C. V. Bingham. Bro. E. D. Milam licensed to Exorter.

13 Dec. 1886 T. F. Bumgarner authorized as an exorter. Recommended by the Harbor Grove Class. Signed: W. C. Bellamy, P.C.

9 Apr. 1887 2nd QC, Wilkesboro Circuit, Statesville District, Blue Ridge Conf., M.E. Church, convened at Lovely Grove. Members present: R. M. Witt, P.E.; E. D. Milam, W. C. Bellomy, P.C.; T. H. Cole, J. L. Bumgarner, L.P.; T. F. Bumgarner, Ext.; J. W. Nichols, C.L.; G. W. Bumgarner, C.L.; and H. M. Bumgarner, St. Next meeting to be at Eschal 2nd Sat. and Sun. in June. Committee appointed to secure a site and make arrangements for building a parsonage. Bro. J. M. Eller was released and Bro. J. W. Hays was elected (entry not explained).

(undated) Q.C. at Eschol. Members present: R. N. Witt, P. E.; John Nichols, Jas. Bumgarner, T. F. Bumgarner, J. M. Call, A. Winkler, E. D. Milam, R. A. Stroud, E. J. Falkner. Next meeting Harbor Gr.

(undated) Appears it would be between 9 Apr. and 24 Sept. 1887). We the undersigned committee have met according to order of the QC and selected a place near Wyatt's store of just one acre that is all we could get there for the purpose of a parsonage on the Wilkesboro Circuit. Bro. Washington Hays propose to give that if it will do we the Church have concluded that if the Circuit will furnish the lumber we will build it. Signed: Washington Hays, Chm.; Henry Bumgarner, James Bumgarner.

24 Sept. 1887, 4th QC Friendship Church. Members present: W. C. Bellomy, P.C.; J.L. Bumgarner, L.P.; D. A. Bingham, L.P.; J. E. Pierce, L.P.; T. H. Cole, Ext.; E. D. Milam, Ext.; J. W. Nichols, C.L.; H. M. Bumgarner, St.; L. S. Brooks, S.S. (Sunday School Supt. ?); A. B. Bumgarner, trust(ee). T. F. Bumgarner, Sec. Trustees approved: A. Winkler at Eschoal; L. S. Brookes, Tumbling Shole; R. G. Culler, Lovely Grove. R. G. Culler approved as S.S. Supt. Committee on Missions: J. M. Pierce, T. F. Bumgarner and J. L. Bumgarner. Com. on Church Extension: T. H. Cole, E. D. Milam and H. M. Bumgarner. Com. on S.S.: D. A. Bingham, J. M. Call,

J. W. Hays. Com. on Tracts: David Roten, A. Winkler, J. M. Eller, Com. on Temperance: T. F. Bumgarner, D. A. Bingham, J. E. Pierce. Com. on Education: J. L. Bumgarner, J. W. Gaither, D. A. Bingham. Com. on Church Records: R. G. Culler. Com. on Parsonage and Furniture: J. W. Hays, J. L. and H. M. Bumgarner. Com. on Estimating preachers Salaries: J. W. Nichols, J. E. Pierce, J. L. Bumgarner. Com. on Estimating amt. necessary for conf. claimants: P.E. (perhaps this estimate was left to the presiding elder ?) Stewards for insuing conf. year: Eschoal, R. A. Stroude; Lovely Grove, R. G. Culler; Arbor Grove, J. W. Hays; Friendship: J. L., H. M. and T. F. Bumgarner, J. A. Pierce, D. A. Bingham, D. Roten, Jhan Wingler (appears this entry may be confused). Recording St., T. F. Bumgarner; District St., J. E. Pierce; Trustees of Church and Parsonage Property: Eschoal, J. M. Call, D. E. Call and A. Winkler; Lovely Grove, R. G. Culler, J. L. Bumgarner and Joseph Wright; Arbor Grove, J. E. Pierce, H. M. and T. F. Bumgarner; Friendship, J. W. Nichols, J. L., Stephen, and A. B. Bumgarner, and Mary Wright; Tumbling Shole, John Wingler, C. V. Bingham, L. S. Brookes; Sugar Cove, T. L. Absher, B. F. Miller and D. Roten. Reccomended for leisens to Preach: Bro. T. H. Cole, E. D. Milam, David Roten. Recommended for L.P.: J. L. Bumgarner, J. E. Pierce, D. A. Bingham. Recommended for admission to Traveling connexion: E. D. Milam, J. E. Pierce, D. A. Bumgarner (not Bingham here! I know of other instances of Bingham and Bumgarner confusion). Recommended for renewal of licens: J. L. Bumgarner, L.P.; J. E. Pierce, L.P.; D. A. Bingham, L.P. Exhorters: T. F. Bumgarner, T. H. Cole, E. D. Milam and David Roten.

(undated entry) Report of Sunday School at Friendship: 4 officers and teachers, 18 schollars, 13 in attendance over 15 years of age, 9 in attendance under 15 years, 22 whole number in attendance 1887. Signed: George W. Bumgarner, Supt.

14 Apr. 1888 2nd QC at Friendship Church. Rev. R. M. Watt, P.E., in the chair. J. J. Wryne (Rhyne), P.C. Members present: J. L. Bumgarner, L.P., J. E. Pierce, L.P., T. H. Cole, L.P., E. D. Milam, L.P., J. W. Nichols, A. B. Bumgarner, L. S. Brookes, J. W. Hays, G. W. Bumgarner, T. F. Bumgarner chosen as Secretary. Approved as Sunday School Supts: James Call, T. F. Bumgarner, L. S. Brookes, C. V. Bingham.

14 July 1888, Arbor Grove. Change in Board of Stewarts: Bro. J.L. Bumgarner relieved - Bro. L. S. Brooks instead.

24 Nov. 1888 at Friendship. Rev. R. M. Watt, P.E.; J. J. Rhyne, P.C.; J. E. Pierce, J. L. Bumgarner, T. H. Cole, J. W. Nichols, G. W. Bumgarner, L. S. Brooks, A. B. Bumgarner. Elected S.S. Supt: G. W. Bumgarner. Change in Bd. of Stewarts: Bro. H. M. Bumgarner relieved - A. B. Bumgarner elected.

18 May 1888 3rd QC at Arbor Grove. Committee to select a site for parsonage:

J. W. Hays, J. M. Eller, J. L. Bumgarner.

(entry undated - place not recorded) C. W. Smith, P.C., in the chair. Com. on Preechers salary: J. E. Pierce, J. W. Nichols, H. M. Bumgarner. Dist. Conf. to be held at New Union in Davie County 21 Aug. 1890.

25 July 1891 at Friendship. C. W. Smith, P.E., in the chair. T. F. Bumgarner, Sec. Others present: W. J. Wyatt, P.C.; J. L. Bumgarner, J. E. Pierce, T. H. Cole, J. W. Nichols, G. W. Bumgarner, A. B. Bumgarner, Linville Bumgarner, J. W. Milam, J. T. Nichols, L. S. Brookes. Appointments: Friendship, Arbor Grove, Lovely Grove, Eshcal, Tumbling Scole. Com. on Missions: T. F. and Linville Bumgarner, J. W. Milam, D. A. Bingham and Pastor. Com. on Estimating (Salary?): J. L. Bumgarner, J. T. Nichols, L. S. Brookes.

7 Nov. 1891 1st QC at Eschol. Rev. C. W. Smith, P.E., in the chair. T. F. Bumgarner, Sec. Others: J. M. Heath, Pastor; J. E. Pierce, A. Winkler. Bro. J. M. Heath, Chm. of the Building Com. (parsonage).

16 Jan 1892, Report of Pastor Jas. M. Heath, P.C. Deceased during quarter: Mary Wright.

(not dated) Report of S. S. Supt., J. T. Nichols, Friendship. Number of officers and teachers 6; number of scholars enrolled 50, average attendance 30.

5 Aug. 1893 Report of Friendship Supt., J. T. Nichols. Scholars of all ages 82, officers and teachers 6, children under 15, 40, average attendance 50, 5 children converted.

24 Nov. 1895 1st QC for Wilkesboro, Bakersville Dist., Blue Ridge Conf. held at Friendship. A. B. Graybeal, P.E., in the chair. T. F. Bumgarner, Sec. Others: D. S. Ritchardson, Paster; J. L., W. A., G. W. and T. F. Bumgarner, T. H. Cole, L. S. Brooks, J. M. Eller and J. T. Nichols.

23 Nov. 1895 Report of Rev. J. L. Bumgarner. Held one protracted meeting resulting in 4 conversions.

Notation (not dated), written on half an envelope: James Bumgarner..text: for the great day of his wrath is come and who shall be able to stand..

(undated) The following is a list of church members who apparently attended a Singing School taught by William Herald (Harrold?). Each person paid 25¢.

Wash Nichols, J. A. Pierce, S. D. Minton, S. A. Rash, J. T. Nichols, J. (C. or B.) Bumgarner, F. H. Nichols, S. A. Bumgarner, W. A. Bumgarner, D. H. McGlamery, U. or W. C. Lovett. U. (? F. Bumgarner, T. H. Cole, Virah Bumgarner, C. P. Crysel, Wm. Martin. L. S. Brookes, M. L. Wright, Ed Gaither, J. M. Gaither, J. N. Wright, J. B. Nicholls, M. A. Eller, Gavan (Govan) Color, S. N. Bumgarner.

Abstracted by Mae R. Hayes, 1971

APPENDIX BMembers of FriendshipFrom Wilkesboro Circuit Minutes

The following list is apparently an undated membership roll for Friendship Class (or Church) which appeared in the Wilkesboro Circuit Minutes. W indicates widow, S = single; all others are assumed to be married.

J. W. Nicholls, G. W. Bumgarner, Wm. K. Rash, Jas. L. Bumgarner, Margaret M. Rash - W, Francis E. Nichols, Stephen Bumgarner, Belvia D. Bumgarner, Sarah Bumgarner, Rebecca Bumgarner, Nancy Bumgarner, Joseph Wright, Mary Wright - W, Sarah Holder - W, A. G. Gather, A. E. Gather, T. A. (P.A. ?) Bumgarner, Wm. A. Bumgarner, Charlotte Rodgers - W, Mary E. Bumgarner, Collumbus Miller, Cornelia A. Bumgarner, Mary R. Wright, Mary Minton, Jesse Minton, Mary A. Nicholls, Mary E. Bumgarner, Sarah E. Nicholls, A. J. Bumgarner, Bethany Nicholls, F. M. Rash - S, Lee M. Minton - S, Elizabeth Minton, Fanny Martin, Martha Nicholls, Lucinda Nicholls - S, M. C. Asmon (?), Elizabeth Beamon - W, Eliza Beaman - S, John W. Gaither - S, T. M. Cole, John T. Nicholls, J.M.E. Gaither - S, J. L. Bumgarner - S, Wm. E. Rash - S, A. M. Rash - S, Elizabeth Nicholls - S, Nancy C. Faw - S, Elizabeth Miller - W, Leander Brooks, Lavina Minton - S, T. G. (T.P.?) Bumgarner - S, Sarah A. Bumgarner - S, Mary V. Eledge - W, Mary E. Bishop, Mirah A. Bumgarner, Henry Bumgarner, Candice Eller, F. H. Hayes - W, Janis (James ?) Woods - S, Clarinda Riggs - S, Thomas H. Cole, Martha Riggs - W, Sarah E. Miller, Mahalia Gaither - S, Nelson Bumgarner - S, Wm. E. Gaither - S, Mary J. Gaither.

On probation: Amanda A. Bumgarner - S, Elvira Bumgarner - S, John Lankford, Jane Roads - S.

Total membership 77. Wily T. Nichols Bap (Baptized? Baptist?)

Copied by Mae R. Hayes, 1971

APPENDIX CFriendship Methodist Church Roll - 1954

Blakewood, Ben	Bumgarner, S. Nelson	Nichols, Alexander G.
Blakewood, Bronda	Bumgarner, Vincent S.	Nichols, Elzora
Brooks, C. C., Jr.	Bumgarner, Wiley	Nichols, Kay
Brooks, Dorothy	Bumgarner, Margaret	Nichols, Luther
Brooks, Roxie	Church, Annie B.	Nichols, Veada
Brooks, Sidney	Church, Troy	Osborne, Sam
Brooks, W. Roby	Craven, Bertha	Osborne, Marian
Bumgarner, Baxter	Craven, Charles	Owings, Phoebe
Bumgarner, Billie	Delp, Paul F.	Owings, Joseph
Bumgarner, Linda	Delp, Vera	Rash, Bessie
Bumgarner, Cornelia	Delp, Raymond	Rash, Fred
Bumgarner, Virginia	Delp, Roy	Rash, Genie (Mrs. Milton)
Bumgarner, Edward	Elledge, Mary Belle	Rash, Jack
Bumgarner, Gaither A.	Eller, Rosa	Rash, Lillian
Bumgarner, Bertha	Eller, Lawson	Rash, Madeline
Bumgarner, James I.	Eudaily, J. Hunt	Rash, Vira
Bumgarner, Jean	Eudaily, James	Rhoades, Jane
Bumgarner, George S.	Eudaily, Martha	Rhoades, Bernice
Bumgarner, Jeter	Faw, Cyrus	Riggs, Wanda
Bumgarner, J. C.	Faw, Maizie	Royal, Ike
Bumgarner, Ruby	Gaither, Blanche	Royal, Ivie Dean
Bumgarner, J.L.A.	Gaither, Ernest	Staley, Edna (Mrs. Joe)
Bumgarner, Margaret R.	Gaither, Fred	Wagner, Allie
Bumgarner, Lin	Gaither, Fred, Jr.	Wagner, Mrs. John
Bumgarner, Mary Lee	Johnson, Avery	Wagner, Mildred
Bumgarner, Millard F.	Johnson, Mae	Walker, Lillian
Bumgarner, Pansy	Jones, Paul	Walsh, Joan
Bumgarner, M. F., Jr.	Jones, Flois	Whitson, Garret
Bumgarner, Maude	Kilby, Callie	Whitson, Tennessee
Bumgarner, Monroe M.	Kilby, Fanny	
Bumgarner, Neta	Marion, Frances	
Bumgarner, Newton	Marion, Lucy	
Bumgarner, Peggy	Marion, Norman S.	
Bumgarner, Spencer	Miller, Revere	

(This roll was made by L. L. A. Bumgarner from the roll of the Pastor, Rev. C. J. Caudill, 11 January 1954. Since that date, omissions have been discovered, several deaths have occurred and a few members moved away and transferred memberships to other churches, etc.).

APPENDIX D

The Church Register
The Millers Creek Methodist Episcopal South

The following data was taken from the above named register which was kept by John F. Caudill. The book was given to the church in 1978 by Mrs. J. Van Caudill.

<u>Bishop</u>	<u>Presiding Elder</u>	<u>Pastor in Charge</u>	<u>Date</u>
Chas. B. Galloway	H. M. Blair	H. C. Sprinkle	Nov. 1896
O. P. Fitzgerald	"	S. D. Stamey	Nov. 1898
J. S. Key	J. J. Renn	L. P. Bogle	Nov. 1899
H. C. Morrison	"	"	Nov. 1900
"	" (& Cook)	J. B. Tabor	Nov. 1901
Coke Smith	Cook	B. F. Hargett	1904
A. W. Wilson	L. T. Cordell	P. H. Caviness	1905
"	"	J. T. Storm (?)	1906
H. C. Morrison	W. M. Bagby	W. L. Dawson	1907
James Adkins	R. M. Taylor	J. W. Kennedy	1909
E. R. Hendrix	M. H. Vestal	P. L. Shore	1910
E. E. Hoss	"	Clark	1911
Collins Denny	"	J. E. McSwain	1912
J. H. McCoy	"	O. C. Fortenberry	1913
R. G. Waterhouse	J. H. Bennett	W. S. Cherry	1914
W. R. Lambuth	T. E. Wagg	"	
John C. Kilgo	"	R. F. Wellons	1916
James Adkins		J. D. Pyatt	1917
U.V.W. Darlington		"	1918

Register of Marriages

John C. Henry and Ada Sue McNeil, married by L. P. Bogle, 19 Aug. 1901

Register of Infant Baptisms

<u>Child</u>	<u>Parents</u>	<u>By Whom</u>	<u>Date</u>
James Monroe Wyatt	R. F. & Laura A. Wyatt	H. C. Sprinkle	3-14-1901
Orrin B. Gaither	W. E. & Hattie Gaither	"	4-11-1897
Elsie Nichols	Wm. and Amanda Nichols	"	8-14-1897
Fred Nichols	Wm. and Amanda Nichols	"	8-14-1897
Fannie Bumgarner	U. L. and Myrtie Bumgarner	L. P. Bogle	Sept. 1901
Louize Gaither	Ed and Hattie Gaither	W. S. Dawson	1908

Register of Members

Membership rolls for old Millers Creek Church from the time it was organized in 1890 until 1897 are missing (assuming that 1890 is the date of organization). Members joining between 10 April 1897 and 1918 are listed in the Register as follows:

Thos. H. Faw, Mrs. Mary E. Faw, John C. Rash, Jas. L. Faw, Ann Faw, Rebecca Bullis, Sarah Bullis, Elizabeth Bullis, Martha Eller, Caroline McNeil, Hattie Gaither, Mary A. Rash, Mary A. McNeil, Mary A. Eller, Catherine Nichols, Callie Caudill, R. F. Wyatt, Laura A. Wyatt, Ann Crowson, John A. Faw, Fannie Faw, Dora Caudill, Walter J. Faw, Mattie Rash, Joseph Faw, Matilda Bullis, Amanda Church, James W. Rash, Caroline Pierce, May Faw Crayner, Minnie Rash, Isaac H. McNeil, Patsy Eller, Ada Sue McNeill Henry, H. O. Parson, Jno. C. Crowson, Thaddie T. Faw, Myrtie Rash, Louisa Marlow, May Crowson, Lizzie C. Oliver, Ira M. Rash, Lot Riggs, Richard C. Rash, Jas. W. Caudill, Jno. F. Caudill, Minnie L. Minton, Cora Ella Wyatt, Clara T. McNeill, Elizabeth Craine, Atkins Faw, Oscar Faw, Claud Faw, Mr. Deeschlen, Mrs. Deeschlen, Chal Absher, Clate Absher, Mrs. Henley, Myra Bullis, Margaret Riggs, Annie Parsons, Bettie McNeil, Jennie McNeil, H. Daniel Bumgarner, Lisie Bumgarner, Green Bumgarner, Francis "Tillie" Bullis, Bessie Eller, Lillie Rash, Stella McNeil, Bessie McNeil, Annie Riggs, Nora Riggs, Maggie Bumgarner, Daisy S. Faw, Queenie B. Bumgarner, Oren Gaither, Nellie Gaither, Alda McNeil, Johnnie McNeil, Carrie E. Pyatt, Pearl Riggs, Julia Nichols, Lela A. Nichols, Winton Gaither.

(The roll was revised "by R. H. Kennington in 1933 in the home of J. F. Caudill...25 members is all we have"...the revision included the following persons who apparently joined after 1918:)

Hilary A. Faw, Pearl Riggs, Elisha Bumgarner, Anna L. Gaither, Daisy McNeil Coffey, Mae Riggs McNeil, Van Caudill, John W. Gaither, Hattie Hunter, Aline Hunter, Mary Craven.

(The next revision was not dated, but includes the following new members:)

Leanna E. Cooke, Nancy Bullis, Charlie G. Clark, Susie Clark, T. H. Faw, Winston Gaither, D. R. Wright, Mrs. D. R. Wright, Nora Wright, Harvey Wright, Richard Wright, Walter Wright, Mrs. P. W. Greer.

(A revision in 1939 names the following new members:)

C. S. Bumgarner, Mrs. C. S. Bumgarner, C. S. Bumgarner, Jr., Beth Bumgarner, Tom John Bumgarner, Sue Bumgarner, Arthur Cox, Mrs. R. V. Day, Violet Tulbert, Hester Tulbert, Vivian Tulbert, Doris Tulbert.

(The next revision, November 1947, lists those joining between 1939 and 1947:)

Hazel Bumgarner, Carroll Bumgarner, Joy Bumgarner, Alvan Caudill, Agnes E. Caudill, Jack Caudill, Mozelle E. Benton, Robert Hayes, Mae R. Hayes, Balmer Hayes, Dora C.

Hayes, Linda J. Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. Odell Parsons, Mrs. Ethel P. (Parsons ?), Nat Tolbert, Belva E. Tolbert, Jimmy Tolbert, Max Tolbert, Ray Tulbert, Norma Jean Tulbert.

APPENDIX E
Policies and/or Traditions
 (Subject to Change)

The Upper Rooms - one per family, purchased by the church

Flowers for the Altar: Fresh flowers when possible. Anyone wishing to schedule flowers for a given Sunday in memory or in honor of a loved one, telephone Sidney Johnston, 838-8536. Notation will be made in Bulletin.

Flowers for Christmas: Altar arrangement and poinsettias for windows - ditto above instructions.

Flowers for Ill: A bud vase is sent to every Church or Sunday School member who is hospitalized or bedfast. Telephone Belva Tolbert, 838-4894, if you know of a member who is ill.

Flowers for Deceased: A floral arrangement is sent to the home of (or funeral for) a Church or Sunday School member; a child, parent or any relative living in the home of a member; a brother or sister of a member only if they lived in Wilkes County.

In the event of unusual or questionable circumstances, a decision will be made by a committee composed of Belva Tolbert, Mary Hester Eller, Ivie Dean Royal and Mae Hayes.

Maundy Thursday Communion and Service

Homecoming: Fourth Sunday in September

Family Nights - Covered Dish Supper, etc. - every 5th Sunday evening

Revivals: Three or four evenings following Homecoming Sunday - beginning the evening of Homecoming. Another, usually in April of each year.

Use of Fellowship Hall and Kitchen (regularly scheduled groups)

1. Please leave the hall clean and neat, trash in cans or closed bags.
2. Sweep floors, mop if necessary.
3. Put chairs and tables away or where you found them.
4. Be sure stove is completely off.
5. Make sure all lights are off - heat/air conditioning off - except in winter, turn back to 55.

Any church member or person who attends the church can use the fellowship hall. Church groups have priority - first call - first use basis. To schedule use of the hall, contact Sidney Johnston, 838-8536.

A committee has recently been appointed to set up new guidelines for use of fellowship hall and kitchen.

Christmas Party - a week or two before Christmas - everybody invited - bring finger foods - special "treats" provided for children.

Christmas Eve Communion

APPENDIX FContributors to Our Building Fund

(From Homecoming Day Program, Sept. 25, 1955)

Ellen Ashley	Mr. & Mrs. H. D. Caudill, Jr.
Pansy Ashley	Mr. & Mrs. J. Van Caudill
T. A. Atwood	Rell Caudill
C. C. Brooks, Jr.	Mrs. Annie Church
Mr. & Mrs. C. C. Brooks, Sr.	Tam Church
Dorothy Brooks	Troy M. Church
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Blakewood	Mr. & Mrs. Leander Collins
Blue Ridge Florist	Floyd Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Baxter Bungarner	Mr. & Mrs. Joe Craft
Bill Bungarner	Bobby Delp
Carroll Bungarner	Mr. & Mrs. Paul Delp
Mr. & Mrs. C. S. Bungarner	Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Dockery
Clyde Bungarner	THE DUKE ENDOWMENT
Mrs. Cornelia Bungarner	Dale Elledge
Mr. and Mrs. Edd Bungarner	Nellis Elledge
Elisha Bungarner	Maribel Elledge
Rev. & Mrs. G. W. Bungarner	Clara Eller
Green Bungarner	E. R. Eller
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Bungarner	Lawson Eller
Dr. & Mrs. James I. Bungarner	Eller Lumber Co.
Rev. & Mrs. J.L.A. Bungarner	Mrs. Rose P. Eller
Dr. & Mrs. John R. Bungarner	Mr. & Mrs. J. H. Eudaily
Mr. & Mrs. Lin Bungarner	James Eudaily
Lundy Bungarner	C. C. Faw
M. M. Bungarner	Mr. & Mrs. Heggie Faw
M. F. Bungarner	J. M. Faw
Mrs. Newton Bungarner	Mazie Faw
Mr. & Mrs. Quentin Bungarner	Mr. & Mrs. Monroe Faw
Spencer Bungarner	W. M. Faw
Mr. & Mrs. S. V. Bungarner	Mrs. J. I. Foust
Tom Bungarner	Gaddy Motor Co.
Warren Bungarner	Mr. & Mrs. A. M. Gaither
Mr. & Mrs. Wiley Bungarner	Mr. & Mrs. Fred Gaither
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin J. Canter	Mrs. W. E. Gaither
Rev. & Mrs. John Carper	Ed Gardner
Mr. & Mrs. Alvan Caudill	Kermit Greene
Rev. & Mrs. C. J. Caudill	Mr. & Mrs. Tom W. Greene

Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Halfacre
 Mr. & Mrs. Balmer Hayes
 Louise Harris
 Atty. & Mrs. J. Allie Hayes
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert K. Hayes
 Tom W. Hayes
 Fern Brooks Hunter
 Mrs. Max N. Hurley
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Avery Johnson
 Joan Walsh Johnson
 Lonnie Johnson
 Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Jones
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Jones
 Callie Kilby
 Cecil Kilby
 Pressley Kilby
 Mr. & Mrs. Q. O. Kilby
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Marley
 Frances Marion
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Marion
 Mrs. R. B. Myers
 National Board of Missions of
 The Methodist Church
 Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Nichols
 Bill Nichols
 J. Milton Nichols
 Luther Nichols
 Mr. & Mrs. Sam Osborne
 Mr. & Mrs. J. Vance Owens
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Owings
 Auburn Parsons
 Charlie Parsons
 Hal Parsons
 Phoebe Patterson
 Betty Jean Phillips

Walter Propst
 Fred Rash
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Rash
 Mrs. J. B. Rash
 Mrs. Milton Rash
 Vira Rash
 Leslie Rhoades
 Henry Robertson
 Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Royal
 Jackie Royal
 Salem Steel Co.
 Mrs. Robert Sidman
 Anna Brooks Smith
 Mrs. Joe Staley
 Mr. & Mrs. Thornton Staley
 Standard Concrete Products Co.
 Mr. & Mrs. Jimmie Tolbert
 Max Tolbert
 Mr. & Mrs. Nat Tolbert
 Rev. & Mrs. J. W. Tysinger
 Veterans Farm Group
 (in community)
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wagoner
 Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Wallace
 Lillian Walker
 Gurney Walsh
 Hayes Welborn
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Welborn
 Western North Carolina Conference
 Board of Missions
 Garrett Whitson

APPENDIX GGifts and Memorials

The book, "In Remembrance" which may be found in the vestibule of the church was donated by the Lester Johnson Family in memory of A. G. Nichols. The walnut lectern on which it rests was given in honor of Sidney Brooks Johnston by Mr. and Mrs. Wake Clark. The gifts entered in the book to date are as follows:

Pews given in memory of:

Mrs. J. H. Eudaily
A. G. Nichols
John Milton Nichols, Sr.
Mrs. P. G. Carroll
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Rash
Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Bumgarner
Mr. & Mrs. Welborn Kilby
Mr. & Mrs. W. R. Brooks
Mr. & Mrs. Lee S. Brooks
The Rev. J. L. A. Bumgarner
J. T. and Lena Wagoner
Q. O. Kilby
Mrs. Rosa P. Eller

Mrs. Ethel Caudill
Claude C. Faw, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Shepherd
Paul and Roy Delp

Presented by:

Friends and relatives
Mrs. A. G. Nichols
The Nichols Family
Mr. & Mrs. L. H. Collina
Lucy Marion and Bessie Rash
W. Q. Bumgarner, Mr. & Mrs.
Ernest Walker and Mr. & Mrs.
Lonnie Johnston
The Brooks Family
The Bumgarner Family
The Wagoner Family
Mrs. Q. O. Kilby and Family
Mr. & Mrs. Lin Bumgarner and
Raymond Pearson

H. D. Caudill, Sr. & H. D. Caudill, Jr.
Mrs. Claude Faw, Sr. and Mr. and
Mrs. Claude Faw, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John V. Idol
The Delp Family

Pews were purchased and donated by: Mr. & Mrs. Isaac Royal and Family, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Brooks, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. J. Van Caudill, Mr. and Mrs. Balmer Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Rhoades, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wagoner, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bumgarner, Mr. and Mrs. Thornton Staley, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. Alvan Caudill, Mr. and Mrs. Wake Clark, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Tolbert, Mr. and Mrs. Avery Johnson, Maribel Elledge, Joan W. Johnson, Neta Bumgarner, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Bumgarner, Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Eller, M. F. Bumgarner, Ruby Bumgarner, Rosa Pearson Eller, Dwight Church, Annie Church, Vincent Bumgarner, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Rollins, Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Bumgarner, Mr. and Mrs. Nat Tolbert, and the Women's Society of Christian Service.

GiftsIn Memory of:Presented by:

Philodendron plants for altar	Rev. J.L.A. Bumgarner	The W.S.C.S
Painting of Christ	Mr. & Mrs. M.F. Bumgarner, Sr.	Mrs. A. M. Patterson
A Trust Fund for Cemetery Maintenance	Rev. J.L.A. Bumgarner	The Bumgarner Family
Plot of Land in front in front of church	Mr. & Mrs. M. F. Bumgarner, Sr.	The Bumgarner Children
Brass Flower Urns	M. F. Bumgarner, Sr.	The 1974-75 6th grade class, Winston-Salem, N. C.
Paraments & Book Markers - All Deceased UMW Members		The Helping Hand Circle
Baptismal Font	Mrs. Annie B. Church	UMW, Family and Friends
Silverplated Communion Chalice	James Avery Johnson	The Johnson Family
Sterling Silver Baptismal Bowl	Mrs. Ethel Caudill	The Rev. C. J. Caudill
Recording Deck	J. Van Caudill	Mrs. J. Van Caudill
Brass Communion Service	Fred G. (Sonny) Gaither, Jr.	The Gaither Family
Bible Stand on altar	J. Van Caudill	Mrs. J. Van Caudill
Silk Flowers for altar	Mrs. Blanche B. Gaither & Mrs. Bessie R. Rash	The Helping Hand Circle
The Stephen Bumgarner Family Bible	Stephen and Rebecca Bumgarner & their son, M. M. Bumgarner	The Bumgarner Heirs
The Parsonage Site	His wife, Pansy P. Bumgarner and his son, Henry Bumgarner	M. F. Bumgarner, Sr.
Scholarship Fund	Mrs. Mildred Wagoner	Jack Wagoner
Scholarship Fund	Vance Owens	Family and Friends

Special Gifts

Gold Candlesticks, in honor of Dr. James I. Bumgarner by Rev. and Mrs. Rodney Yates

Four offering plates given by Mr. and Mrs. G. V. Bodenhcimer

Four brass offering plates given by Rev. and Mrs. James McKinney

Hymnals given by Mrs. J. Ray Bumgarner

Hymnals given by congregation members and friends (not itemized)

Cherry bedroom furniture for parsonage given by H. D. Caudill, Jr. and C. Jack Caudill

Candlelighters given by Agnes Caudill and Neta Bumgarner

Desk for Pastor's Study given by Dr. James I. Bumgarner

New carpet for Educational Building (sponsored by Mission Circle):

Agnes Caudill, Lawson and Mary Hester Eller, Burl and Marolyn Lankford, Anne Staley, Ed and Virginia Bumgarner, Norma Collins, Vance and Virginia Owens, Fred and Betty Reeves, Joe and Phoebe Owings, Betty Nichols, Manie Novotny, Bruce and Carol Crane,

Jean Bumgarner, Bill and Alan Tolbert, Jim and Jamie Tolbert, Fidelis Class in memory of Leslie Rhoades, Sheila and Butch McWhirter in memory of Rell Caudill, Mae Johnson, Chip and Linda Bumgarner, Mr. and Mrs. Ricky Crane, Mr. and Mrs. Terry Edsel, Robert and Mae Hayes, The Nixons in honor of Will Kuenzel, Worth and Stella Miller, Jewell Bumgarner, Methodist Men's Club, Ed and Gayle Benton, Balmer and Dora Hayes, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Hudler, Patricia Crane, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Brooks, Jr., Steve and Susan Bumgarner, Ivie Dean Royal, Janet Kilby and David Sturgill in memory of Isaac Royal, Fred Gaither, Maribel Elledge, Don and Linda Love, Wayne and Zedena Barker, Dot and Wake Clark, Salma Rainey, Edna Staley, Edith Dockery, and Gayle Benton in memory of L. H. Collins.

The following items are engraved on plaque in the front vestibule:

Reredos and Altar in memory of John F. and Callie Faw Caudill, presented by the Caudill Family. The lectern on the altar in memory of Joseph M. and Lizzie Mary Gaither, presented by The Children. The Choir Screen in honor of Mrs. Annie B. Church and in memory of her daughter, Ina Church, presented by Mrs. Neta Bumgarner. The pulpit in honor of the Rev. C. Jack and Elizabeth A. Caudill ("Jack and Libby") by the church.

Stained Glass Windows

In Memory of

Presented by

The Rev. and Mrs. J. L. A. Bumgarner
George W. and Mary E. Bumgarner
The Rev. James L. and Phoebe Ann Bumgarner
John W. and Cora Kilby Eller
John Andrew and Fannie Faw
Thomas H. and Mary Elizabeth Faw
Cleveland and Caroline McNeil
James W. and Mary Gaither Nichols
Alvin W. and Joe H. Pearson
Mary McKee (Granny) Wright

Their Children
Mrs. Phoebe B. Patterson
The Nichols Family
Their Children
Their Children
The C. C. Faw Family
Mrs. Clara M. Foust
The Nichols Family
Lin and Mary Lee P. Bumgarner
The Church

Appendix H

In Loving Memory of Our Deceased Members

Bumgarner, Annie P.	Dillard, R. H.
Bumgarner, C. S., Sr.	Eller, Rose B.P.
Bumgarner, Elisha	Eudaily, J. Hunt
Bumgarner, Green	Eudaily, Martha P.
Bumgarner, J. Baxter	Faw, Mrs. Oscar
Bumgarner, James I.	Gaither, Blanche B.
Bumgarner, J. L. A.	Gaither, Fred G., Jr.
Bumgarner, Jeter	Gaither, Hattie F.
Bumgarner, Lin	Johnson, J. Avery
Bumgarner, Maggie P.	Johnson, Jenny
Bumgarner, Margaret G.	Kilby, Callie B.
Bumgarner, Maude R.	Kilby, Fanny N.
Bumgarner, M. F., Sr.	Kilby, Quincy O.
Bumgarner, Monroe M.	Marion, Lucy R.
Bumgarner, Newton	Marion, Norman
Bumgarner, Neta C.	Martin, Walter
Bumgarner, Pansy P.	McNeil, Thomas Everette
Bumgarner, Vincent	Murdock, Elsie
Bumgarner, Wiley	Nichols, A. G.
Bumgarner, Zane	Nichols, Betty T.
Bumgarner, Van W.	Nichols, J. Milton
Brooks, C. C., Sr.	Nichols, Mrs. Zollie
Brooks, William Roby	Osborne, Sam W.
Brooks, Roxie B.	Owens, Vance
Caudill, H. Dewey, Sr.	Pearson, Henry M.
Caudill, J. Van	Parsons, Odell
Caudill, Rell	Prevette, Clara E.
Church, Annie B.	Rash, J. Bynum
Church, James	Rash, Bessie R.
Collins, L. H.	Rash, Fred
Crane, Bruce S.	Rash, Genie
Delp, Paul	Rash, Vira
Delp, Raymond	Rash, Warden
Delp, Roy	Riggs, Frances

Riggs, Candace
Rhoades, J. Leslie
Rhoades, Joseph
Royal, Isaac
Stanley, Janie R.
Tolbert, Nat
Wagoner, Mildred M.
Wagoner, Lena B.
Wallace, Mattie
Yates, Verdie Cox

(Since previous rolls were lost, a new membership roll was compiled by the Commission on Membership and Evangelism on 1 June 1960. The foregoing list of deceased members was derived from that roll).

Appendix I
Current Roll of Full Members

Bumgarner, Spencer	Rogers, Libby W.
Bumgarner, Mary Lee P.	Benton, A. Edward
Bumgarner, Jean Hyall	Benton, Gayle C.
Bumgarner, Edward D.	Delp, Nancy W.
Bumgarner, Virginia R.	Dula, Virginia W.
Bumgarner, Joseph C.	Elledge, Maribel R.
Bumgarner, Ruby R.	Eller, J. Lawson
Bumgarner, Billy Bruce	Eller, Mary Hester C.
Brooks, C. C., Jr.	Eudaily, James
Brooks, Virginia A.	Elledge, Dale
Owings, Phoebe B.	Elledge, Dale
Royal Ivie D. B.	Elledge, Rush B.
Rash, Lillian B.	Elledge, James Nellis
Bumgarner, Kenneth	Faw, James O.
Bumgarner, James Douglas	Faw, Ella Mae
Bumgarner, Frances K.	Wiles, Rachel F.
Johnston, Sidney B.	Faw, Ralph A.
Bumgarner, Frederick H.	Gaither, Fred G.
Bumgarner, Richard L.	Faw, Mary Edna G.
Bumgarner, William Q.	Harris, Louise G.
Bumgarner, Linda E.	Hayes, Troy Balmer
Church, Troy M.	Hayes, Dora C.
Johnson, Mae C.	Hayes, Robert K., Sr.
Cheatwood, Aline M.	Hayes, Mae R.
Owens, Virginia C.	Hayes, Neil V.
Caudill, Agnes E.	Johnston, Lonnie
Caudill, J. Alvan	Jones, Bruce
Caudill, Frances C.	Jones, Flois
Caudill, James Alex	Johnson, Lester
Collins, Norma C.	Johnson, Mary B. H.
Delp, Robert Clayton	Johnson, Gary
Delp, Vera W.	Church, Katherine J.
Delp, Aurelia B.	Marion, Kathryn

Owings, Joe W.
 Osborne, Marian
 Foster, Madeline R.
 Kilby, Janet R.
 Rash, Linville M. (Jack)
 Riggs, Lessie
 Riggs, Margaret
 Rhoades, Bernice G.
 Staley, Edna J.
 Tolbert, Belva E.
 Tolbert, Jimmy J.
 Tolbert, Jamie C.
 Tolbert, William R.
 Tolbert, Alan B.
 Triplett, Shirley B.
 Wagoner, Jack E.
 Wagoner, Allie C.
 Johnson, Joan W.
 Walsh, Kenneth
 Wagoner, Patricia Sue
 Osborne, Bruce
 Anderson, Judy H.
 Shepherd, Shelia H.
 Collins, Elaine H.
 Rash, David
 Rash, Eugene
 Baker, Ruth D.
 York, Laura S.
 York, James
 Walsh, Diane O.
 Brooks, Cilla R.
 Shaver, Kay
 Bumgarner, Mary Lou
 Smithey, Robert C.
 Murdock, Albert L.
 Staley, Anne M.
 Dancy, Vickie B.

Barfield, Mary K. B.
 Hoots, Cynthia B.
 Bumgarner, Phillip Kent
 Haynes, Gary
 Haynes, Jonathan R.
 Johnston, William E.
 Johnston, Denise H.
 Johnson, Timothy W.
 Brown, Dawn R.
 Harrold, Lynn R.
 Rhoades, L. Franklin
 Brooks, Mark S.
 Clark, Wake
 Clark, Dorothy G.
 Clark, William
 Church, Dale P.
 Dillard, Nancy
 Barnhardt, Jimmie D.
 Barnhardt, Gloria
 Pierce, Betty H.
 Higgins, Boyd A. (Tony)
 Higgins, Linda V.
 Love, Donald E.
 Love, Linda
 McGuire, Jerry L.
 McGuire, Ginny
 Bumgarner, Donna J.
 Johnson, Timothy J.
 Eller, John
 Eller, James
 Haynes, William L.
 Paw, Bruce Jr.
 Paw, Priscilla
 Novotny, Manie O.
 Paw, John Alfred

Foster, Verlie L.
Foster, Judy B.
Maxwell Gladys G.
Jones, Kay
Ellis, Angel
Cain, James A.
Cain, Jane M.
Cain, Nora Jane
Church, Joe S. Jr.
Mulholland, Edmond
Mulholland, Elaine
Hughes, Wanda D. C.
Chamberlain, Roger
Williamson, Thomas C.
Williamson, Nancy S.
Williamson, Thomas C. Jr.
Owens, Douglas H.
Wyatt, Charles (Jim)
Wyatt, Sandra P.
Bumgarner, Dr. Robert L.
Bumgarner, Melinda A.
Delp, Tina Leigh
Delp, Tony C.
Earnhardt, Laura Leigh
Earnhardt, Richard C.
Caudill, Frances C.

Adams, Paul E.
Adams, Martha W.
Triplett, Rebecca Jo
Vannoy, Fred R.
Ferguson, Sue S.
Houlihan, Joseph P.
Bumgarner, Edmond (Ned)
Reeves, Fred H.
Reeves, Betty F.
Bumgarner, Joy
York, Randall E.
Barker, K. Wayne
Barker, Zedena A.
Broyhill, Walter
Faw, Rebecca
Hudler, Alan
Hudler, Mary Ella H.
Brown, Linda
Stewart, Michael D.
Stewart, Wendy W.
Crane, Carol B.
Ashley, Patricia C.
McKinney, James Steven
McKinney, Batina R.
Taylor, Philip G.
Taylor, Patricia S.

Hurley, Lee	Kuenzel, William T.
Rash, Jean E.	Kuenzel, Susan N.
Wyatt, Leigh Anne	Templeton, Dr. Bradley D.
Earnhardt, Emily	Templeton, Greta B.
Newton, Mary King	Hughes, David M.
Bullis, Rebecca	Plemmons, Linda G. A.
Love, Cynthia Lynn	Plemmons, Norman Douglas
Hudler, Kimber y Dawn	Plemmons, Donnie Floyd
Hudler, Cynthia Marie	Hale, Charles
Adams, Paul E. Jr.	Hale, Linda N.
Watson, Jimmy Ray	Lankford, George
Watson, Mary Jo. H.	Lankford, Jackie
Lankford, Burl M.	Lankford, Robin
Lankford, Marolyn V.	Pierce, Raymond Andrew
Lankford, Wayne M.	Chamberlain, Sandra L.
Lankford, Randy G.	Watson, Jamie Vonetta
Lankford, John Keith	Watson, Bonnie Jill
Bumgarner, Michael	McGuire, David L.
Bumgarner, Anne	Barker, K. Wayne Jr.
Pierce, Larry	Conrad, Joseph
Pierce, Vickie H.	Conrad, Dorcas
Bumgarner, Randall K.	Hudler, Barry
Bumgarner, Jewel S.	Hudler, Shirley
Bumgarner, Steve B.	Wooten, Charles Richard
Bumgarner, Susan D.	Wooten, JoAnn W.
Cubert, W. David	Greer, Betty Jo
Cubert, Rita S.	Davis, Allen

Davis, Jeannie E.	Barker, Dawn
Osborne, Steven	Blair, Alex
Osborne, Nancy F.	Blair, Andrew
Smith, James	Pierce, William Dana
Smith, Margaret	Teague, Jimmy
Sarson, Gloria L.	Tribble, Brennis
Royal, Jack	Beckwith, James C.
Royal, Iva Dell	Beckwith, Patricia
Royal, Teresa	Love, Jennifer G.
Royal, Tammy	Holloway, Marilyn
Bryan, John (Mac)	York, Keith
Bryan, Vickie S.	McGuire, Michael
Euliss, Howard	Mulholland, John
Euliss, Susan M.	Blair, Phyllis M.
Teague, Harold	Allen, Susan S.
Teague, DeAnn	Elliott, Kenneth
Veach, Sandra K.	Elliott, Dorothy
Lewis, Deamous K.	Elliott, Denise
Lewis, Margaret L.	Adams, Claudia Amanda

(Taken from the Official Membership Roll 1 Jan. 1985)





